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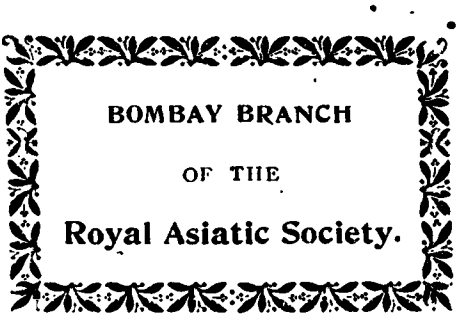

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LETTERS.

Fac Simile of the Handwriting of David Hume

Sir

I am desird by my Lord to make his compliments to you, & to express his Concern for your Illness. I hope it is now over in a great Manner. My Lord himself does not recover so well as could be wishd. Your Company wond always be agreable here; but more so at present, as it would be a Ma of your total Recovery. I am D^r Sir

Your most obedient Serv^t

David Hume

Tuesday 11 a clock.

Fac Simile of the Handwriting of Lord Kames

Your obedient Servant

Henry Hom

Remember that while M^r Home was with the Marquis, the Professorships was lost.

LETTERS

DAVID HUME,

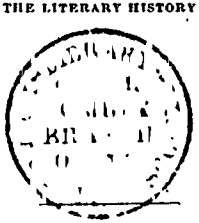
AND

EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS REFERRING TO HIM.

94329

EDITED BY

THOMAS MURRAY, LL.D.,
AUTHOR OF 'THE LITERARY HISTORY OF GALLOWAY.'



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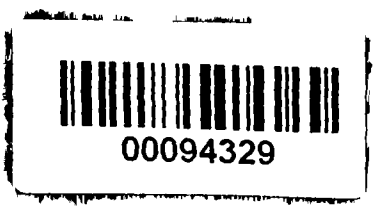

TO

DAVID IRVING, Esq., LL.D.,

THIS

SMALL CONTRIBUTION TO OUR LITERARY HISTORY

IS

INSCRIBED,

AS A MARK OF ADMIRATION FOR HIS LEARNING,

AND

ESTEEM FOR HIS PRIVATE CHARACTER,

BY

THE EDITOR.

PREFACE.

Of the various Letters contained in this volume, the originals are supposed to have been deposited, about eighty years ago, in the hands of a legal gentleman in Edinburgh, as documents for a law-suit, to which the latter portion of them refers. Since his death, they have, we believe, passed through several hands without having attracted any particular attention, or, perhaps, without having ever been read. They ultimately came into the possession of a gentleman who appreciated their value, and who, several years ago, did me the honour of presenting them unconditionally to me. Since that time, they have been perused by many literary friends, to whom they were communicated; and they all, without a single exception, regarded this correspondence as calculated not merely to throw light on Mr Hume's character, but to illustrate a period of his history, which had they been destroyed, must have remained very obscure. In his well-known autobiography, the only mention of his residence with the Marquis of Annandale,—to which part of his life these Letters belong,—is sufficiently meagre, and contains no allusion to the interesting circumstances, which, while they could not but be painful to his feelings, elicited, in an eminent degree, the peculiarities of his character. 'In

1745,' says he, 'I received a letter from the Marquis of Annandale, inviting me to come and live with him in England: I found, also, that the friends and family of that young nobleman were desirous of putting him under my care and direction, for the state of his mind and health required it. I lived with him a twelvemonth. My appointments during that time made a considerable accession to my small fortune.'

Under these circumstances, I have thought it expedient to present this correspondence to the public. I have contributed a few brief notes explanatory of the occasional allusions which the Letters contain; but have not ventured to make any comment, or give any sketch of Mr Hume's character as developed by them. On the contrary, I have left the reader to draw his own inferences, and to form his own conclusions. I flatter myself that, on the whole, this publication will be regarded as supplying no mean addition to the knowledge which we already possess respecting the life and character of an illustrious Philosopher,—and, consequently, to the stock of our biographical literature.

EDINBURGH, *November* 1841.

LETTERS.

THE late MARQUIS of ANNANDALE, a person originally of highly excitable temper, and great waywardness of character, and subsequently declared to be a lunatic, required, before this legal step was taken, to be managed with much care and circumspection.* His mother and family successively employed persons of superior character to live with him as companions and guardians, whose province it was to read to him, amuse him, and exercise that superintendence over him which his unhappy situation rendered indispensable. In the beginning of the year 1745, overtures were made to the celebrated David Hume to reside in this capacity with his Lordship. Mr Hume expressed no unwillingness to accept of the offer; and, in the month of February, he accordingly went from Edinburgh to London, in order that the Marquis and he might be introduced to each other, preparatory to the arrangement being completed.

The following letter to Mr Hume, written by Captain Philip Vincent, a relation of the Marchioness of Annan-

* On the 5th of March 1748, an inquest from the Court of Chancery found that the Marquis was a lunatic, incapable of governing himself and managing his own affairs; and that he had been in this state of mind from the 12th of December 1744. He survived till the 29th of April 1792, when he died at Turnham Green, after having completed the seventy-second year of his age. (Wood's *Peerage of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 77). The title has since been dormant.

dale, will show on what terms the connexion in question was formed :—

'Sir,

'You desire to have a letter from me, expressing all the conditions of the agreement concluded betwixt us, with regard to your living with the Marques of Annandale. In compliance with so reasonable a request, I hereby acknowledge that, by virtue of powers committed to me by the said Marques, and with the approbation and consent of his Lordship and Sir James Johnstone,* I engaged that my Lord should pay you three hundred pounds Sterling a-year, so long as you continued to live with him, beginning from the first of April, one thousand seven hundred and forty five: also, that the said Marques, or his heirs, should be engaged to pay you, or your heirs, the sum of three hundred pounds, as one year's salary, even though the Marques should happen to die any time in the first year of your attendance, or should embrace any new scheme or plan of life, which should make him chuse that you should not continue to live out the first year with him. Another condition was, that, if you should, on your part, chuse to leave the Marques any time in the first or subsequent years, you should be free to do it; and that the Marques should be bound to pay you your salary for the time you had attended him, and also the salary for that quarter in which you should leave him, in the same manner as if that quarter should be fully expired.

'These were the conditions of our agreement about the

* Sir James Johnstone, Bart. of Westerhall, is the person here referred to. He was the representative of an ancient family; and the letters, which this publication contains, bear ample testimony to the prudence and worth which marked his character. He represented the Dumfries District of Burghs for eleven years in succession from 1743 inclusive. He married, in 1719, Barbara, daughter of Alexander, 4th Lord Elibank, and died on the 13th of December, 1772. His widow survived him five months. (Playfair's *Baronetage of Great Britain*, vol. iii. p. 432.)

end of February last, on your first coming up to London for the purposes here mentioned, and which I have committed to writing for your satisfaction and security, this first day of September, at Weldehall, four miles south of St Alban's, in the County of Hertford, and in the year one thousand seven hundred and forty five.

'And if it will be any satisfaction to you, I now subjoin a Copy of the Agreement between the Marques of Annandale and Mr Peter Young, as follows:—

"I do hereby promise and bind myself, my heirs and successors, with the advice, counsel, and approbation of my brother Lord John Johnstone,* and of William Murray, Esquire, Councillor at Law, to give to Mr Young and his heirs, executors or assigns, three hundred pounds sterling a year, commencing at the first day of June 1741, and to continue it as long as he shall live with me, payable every six months in such manner, that, if he leaves me three or four months before the last half year shall be expired, he shall be payed for the whole half year. Written with my own hand this 15th January, 1742.

"J. JOHNSTONE, Witness. ANNANDALE."

'You see the latter part of Mr Young's agreement are more advantageous terms than the latter part of yours; but I have done as much as I thought reasonable and proper for me, and as much as you desired. I make no doubt but, in any contingency, all the Marques's friends and relations, would be far from reducing your conditions less than that of others in the same case, as, in my opinion, and I dare believe in theirs, your character and conduct would rather entitle you to a preference.—I am, Sir, your most humble Servant,

'PHILIP VINCENT.'

* Lord John, the Marquis's only surviving brother, died in 1743.

On Mr Hume's entering on his new situation, though the Marquis and he are described as 'two hermits,' and though brawls, in which the historian was necessarily implicated, were not unfrequent in the household, matters seem at first to have proceeded with some degree of smoothness: at all events, Mr Hume succeeded in gaining the confidence of all concerned. It may here be mentioned, that the residence of the Marquis was at Weldehall, the place mentioned in the preceding page.

The two subjoined extracts from letters written by Captain Vincent to Sir James Johnstone, throw light on the circumstances in which Mr Hume was placed, and show that the commencement of his engagement was auspicious and promising. The former is dated on the 22d of June, the latter in the month of August.

'There was another article I mentioned to the Solicitor-General,* and that concerning Mr Hume, as I think it very happy that he is with my Lord, and still more so, if he is constantly to remain with him, which I do not foresee but that he may; and I must do him the justice to say, that, after having had time enough to weigh the temper, situation, and circumstances of the person he has to deal with, he very candidly owned that it was what he could cheerfully abide with; and when there were the greatest hopes of his carrying the professorship at Edinburgh,† he readily, sometime before the election was to come on, wrote in the handsomest

* William Murray, afterwards Earl of Mansfield.

† The Professorship referred to was that of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, which had become vacant by the resignation of Sir John Pringle, on the 27th March 1745, four days previously to the commencement of Mr Hume's engagement with Lord Annandale. The vacancy was filled up on the 5th of June following, by the election of Mr William Cleghorn, who had for three years occupied the chair as substitute for Pringle, owing to the absence of the latter gentleman, during that period, as Physician to the Military Hospital in Flanders. The patrons, previously to their election of Mr Cleghorn, had offered the

manner to thank his friends for their zeal and good intentions on his behalf, and desired their approbation for resisting. I really thought, and am persuaded of your concurring herein, that Mr Hume should be considered, on this account, by some settlement for his life, as a hundred pounds annuity or so, but the Solicitor-General said this could not be neither. If I have done wrong in talking to him on such matters, pray tell me, and I shall think I ought to stand reproved. His objection to this last point consisted in this, that every body, who had ever been about the Marques, he said, wanted annuities for life; to which I urged the wide difference of character; Mr Hume a gentleman born, and of parts and education, as well as of temper and manners, that there could be no comparison of the men; and it seems to me that, till the person in question, those who have hitherto been about the Marques, have been very odd, or very obscure sort of people, and but little qualified for the purpose.* The Solicitor-General owned the reason-

chair to the celebrated Dr Hutcheson of Glasgow, who declined the preferment. It is well known that Mr Hume's chance of success was never great. In reference to the Professorship, his name does not once occur in the Records of the Town Council of Edinburgh, in which body the patronage of the chair is vested; so that it is evident, whatever influence may have been privately used with the members of council, he was never formally proposed as a candidate.

* There was at least one exception to the truth of this remark. Colonel James Forrester, of the Guards, author of *The Polite Philosopher* (Edinburgh, 1734, 8vo, pp. 55), and the friend of Lord Kames, Dr Johnson, and most of the distinguished characters of his time, was one of the predecessors of Hume, and of whom Johnson said,

'He was himself *the Great Polite* he drew.'

(Tytler's *Life of Kames*, vol. i. p. 84-90, and Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, vol. iii. p. 21.) It may not be uninteresting to give a specimen of the letters, which this accomplished man of fashion was in the habit of writing to the family or relatives of the Marquis, while he was in attendance on his Lordship:—

'I have waited till the going out of the Post leaves me no more time than to assure my Dear Major Johnstone, that I have not a warmer wish than to be able to convince my Lady Annandale and Mr Johnstone that I am, with the sincerest affection, their most devoted, and most humble Servant,

'London, Nov. 4, 1738. 'JAMES FORRESTER.'

'In obedience to my Dear Johnstone's commands, I wou'd not omitt writing,

ableness of what I advanced, but desired I would not think farther on it. So I refer it to your consideration whether or how such a thing may be effected. I have made some mention of it in one of my letters to Lady Annandale.'

'Mr Hume is almost wholly taken up with our friend personally, so that he can scarce have the resource of amusement, or even of business, which is somewhat hard upon a man of erudition and letters, whom indeed I think very deserving and good natured; and whilst he can be his companion, there could not be a better made choice of; and, as there is a difficulty in making a settlement of an annuity of £100 per annum, in consideration of his giving up his time and whatever other views he might have as a man of learning, so I wish, when you are in town, we may agree on some method to make up for that difficulty. He should not, I imagine, be on less advantageous terms than those who have formerly been engaged; and if, after having been one year in this manner, any accident should happen to our friend in the course of the current second year, I believe it would be but right that this gentleman should have two years' appointment, and so on successively in the like case. In fact, he is to be looked upon as a ward, with this difference, that it is done by compact and concurrence of his friends and family, which is more agreeable, as well as less troublesome and expensive, than where a court takes the direction upon them. I wish the Marques could be as much captivated with the beauty of moral discourses

tho' I have nothing to say, but that I am, with the sincerest regards, my Lady Annandale's, and Major Johnstone's most humble, and most obedient Servant,

'London, Nov. 7th, 1738. 'JAMES FORRESTER.'

It seems to have been arranged, that, when the Colonel made no reference to the Marquis, the accounts were to be understood as favourable. The two letters quoted were transmitted by post, and addressed 'Major Johnstone, at Comlongan Castle, near Annan by Carlisle, North Brittain.' (*Vide post*, Note, p. 19.)

as with the sprightly ingenious turns of Fontenelle and Voltaire; for Mr Hume and I have got him a very pretty collection of authors that can possibly hit his taste. This very day he has anticipated my expectations in being, or seeming, highly pleased with Foster's Sermons, the best and genteelest discourses of the kind, I think, I ever met with.'

In other letters written about the same time, Vincent characterizes Mr Hume as 'a very worthy and knowing man,' and as 'my friend Mr Hume.'

The annuity spoken of was never settled. On the 25th of August 1745, Sir James Johnstone made the subsequent reference to Vincent's suggestions:—

'It gives me much pleasure that Mr Hume acts his part so much to our friend's contentment and yours; and from what I saw of him myself, and the character he bears every where, I can make no doubt but the longer he continues in that trust, we shall still have reason to be better and better pleased with the choice; and there can be no question but that our friend, being sensible of the good done by him, will, sooner or later, consider the merit of his services, and make a return in a way that will be agreeable to him, and will meet with the Solicitor-General's approbation, and which again will always be accompanied with that of Lady Annandale.'

In a letter to Mr Hume, of the same date as the preceding, Sir James Johnstone says:—

'The sentiments Mr Vincent entertains of your care, good offices, and attendance on our friend, are no other than what we, in this part of the world, do also feel, and what, I

dare say, are most truly felt by the person chiefly interested. But as to the method proposed to make a requital, I experience a difficulty, arising from the answer made by the Solicitor-General when that was proposed to him by Mr Vincent, and, therefore, till that person give his approbation, I doubt it cannot be expected from this. Times and circumstances frequently make the same thing appear in different lights; and it must remain with Mr Vincent and yourself, whether you choose to push this motion to a final determination at the present period, or wait till the Solicitor-General shall come in to Mr Vincent's proposal.'

The following letter, dated on the 10th June of the same year, and addressed by Mr Hume to Sir James Johnstone, contains, in addition to other important matter, a reference to the contemplated annuity :—

'Sir,

'You wou'd certainly be a little surpriz'd and vext on receiving a printed copy of the Novel,* which was in hands when you left London. If I did not explain the mystery to you, I believe I told you, that I hopt that affair was entirely over, by my employing Lord Marchmont and Lord Bolingbroke's authority against publishing that Novel; tho' you will readily suppose that neither of these two noble Lords ever perus'd it. This machine operated for six weeks; but the vanity of the author return'd with redoubled force, forti-

* No copy of this Novel is believed to be extant: even the name is not known to those whose acquaintance with books is the most extensive and minute. The following extract from a letter (June 22, 1745), written by Captain Vincent to Sir James Johnstone, throws further light on the circumstances under which it was printed:—'It was an innocent amusement, and we could not prevent printing it, though but very few copies, and given only to particular friends. The author believes it sells well in all the shops, and we had one advertisement in one single paper, to that purpose.'

fy'd by suspicions, and encreas'd by the delay. 'Pardie,' dit il, 'je crois que ces messieurs veulent être les seules Seigneurs d'Angleterre qui eussent de l'esprit. Mais je leur montrerai ce que le petit A—— peut faire aussi.' In short, we were oblig'd to print off thirty copies, to make him believe that we had printed a thousand, and that they were to be disperst all over the kingdom.

'My Lady Marchioness will also receive a copy, and I am afraid it may give her a good deal of uneasiness, by reason of the story alluded to in the novel, and which she may imagine my Lord is resolv'd to bring to execution. Be so good, therefore, as to inform her, that I hope this affair is all over. I discover'd, about a fortnight ago, that one of the papers sent to that damsel had been sent back by her under cover to his rival, Mr M'——, and that she had plainly, by that step, sacrific'd him to her other lover. This was real matter of fact, and I had the good fortune to convince him of it; so that his pride seems to have got the better of his passion, and he never talks of her at present.

'A few weeks ago, Mr Vincent told me, that it was his desire that my Lord, with the consent of all his friends, shou'd do such a deed in my favours, as you was so kind as to mention to me when in London; and that, if my affair in Edinburgh should fail, he was resolv'd to use his endeavours to persuade them all to be of the same opinion. My answer was, that I likt his proposal so well, and found my Lord so easy to live with, that I wou'd endeavour to disengage myself from my friends in Edinburgh, and continue my present situation. Accordingly I wrote to Mr Stewart,*

* The person here *alluded* to, was probably Archibald Stewart, Lord Provost of Edinburgh. He was tried before the Court of Justiciary for neglect of duty, and misbehaviour in the execution of his office, before and at the time when the rebels took possession of the city. The trial lasted from the 27th of October to the 2d of November, 1745, and terminated in a verdict of not guilty. (Arnot's *History of Edinburgh*, p. 176.)

who very frankly and kindly allow'd me my liberty of choice; but, unluckily, before my friends in Edinburgh could be inform'd of my resolutions, the matter was brought to an issue, and, by the cabals of the principal,* the bigotry of the clergy, and the credulity of the mob, we lost it. Mr Vincent, however, has wrote to Lady Annandale, who has given her consent, only hinting a little scruple with regard to the danger of my Lord's tiring of me, or I of him; and, as the settlement was to be during life, this wou'd be so much lost to the family. He answer'd her by saying, that the first danger was not to be regarded, because we were resolv'd not to comply with these momentary gusts of humour; and as to the second, that proper precaution cou'd easily be taken, by the advice of the Solicitor-General. I hope this will give entire satisfaction; but, if any difficulties remain, I shall flatter myself in your friendship and authority, to remove them.

'Mr Hope exprest a great desire to Mr Vincent, of seeing my Lord at this place; accordingly, he din'd here in his way to Scotland, and found my Lord in very good health, as indeed he has been for two months; the country air and exercise operating beyond expectation. We live extremely well together, without the smallest interruption of good will and friendship, and he has done me the honour of composing some French verses in my praise. I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant,

'Weldehall, June 18, 1745. 'David Hume.'

Of the subsequent letter to Sir James Johnstone, one paragraph refers to the subject of the pension:—

* William Wishart, D.D., minister of New Greyfriars Church, was Principal of the University of Edinburgh from 1736 to 1754, and was consequently the person here alluded to by Mr Hume. He published an edition of the celebrated treatise of Florence Wilson, *De Animi Tranquillitate*. Edin. 1751, 8vo.

'DEAR SIR,

'You shou'd have heard oftener from me this summer, if Mr V. had not told me frequently that he had written, or was going to write, to you; and as nothing remarkable has past amongst us, I left it to him to inform you of the common course of our affairs. He wrote you lately a very long letter, which he read to me, and from which I know not if you was able to collect the true state of our case, or if it will be necessary for me, in a few words, to tell you freely what judgement shou'd be form'd of it. I shall endeavour to give you my opinion, which I am certain would be yours, were you to pass a day amongst us. I am sorry, therefore, to inform you, that nothing now remains but to take care of your friend's person, in the most decent and convenient manner; and, with regard to his fortune, to be attentive that the great superplus, which will remain, after providing for these purposes, shou'd be employ'd by my Lady and your nephews, as the true proprietors, for their honour and advantage.* No delicacy or nicety of manage-

* Colonel John Johnstone, the baronet's brother, had married the Marchioness dowager, by whom he had two sons and a daughter. Her Ladyship, whose maiden name was Charlotte Van Lore, was the only child of John Vanden Bempe, Esq., banker in London, and was the heiress of her father's large fortune, consisting partly of land in Yorkshire. She was married to the Marquis of Annandale on the 20th of November 1718, and died at Bath on the 23d of November 1763. At the death of her son, the late Marquis, his English estates, which he derived from his mother, went to his half-brother, Richard Vanden Bempe Johnstone (created a baronet in 1795), the eldest son of the Marchioness by her marriage with Colonel Johnstone; and his Scottish estates descended to his grand-nephew, John, 3d Earl of Hopetoun. His personal property, the result of accumulations between the time when he was declared a lunatic and his death, became the subject of expensive and tedious litigation before the Court of Chancery in England, and the Court of Session in Scotland; and it was finally decided that, as he had been domiciled in England during the long period in question, his personal estate, wherever situated, was distributable according to the law of that country. This property, amounting to £415,000, was accordingly divided, in equal portions, between his two half-brothers, Richard and Charles (his half-sister having predeceased him, unmarried), and his niece, Lady Charlotte Hope, daughter of the 1st Earl of Hopetoun, and, at the time of her succeeding to her share of this

ment is now requisite to the execution of this scheme. The most simple word or command from my Lady and you is sufficient. That will carry an authority with it which nothing can resist.

'I shall be impatient till I can have one evening's free and open conversation with you on all these points, and hope you will favour us with your company in your way South. I hope it will be soon. The present unhappy troubles may render you uncertain; if so, I shall write you more at large, with regard to a circumstance of management pretty material, which indeed cou'd be better discust if you were present, and for that reason, I do not now entér upon it.

'Mr Vincent, in his last, made you a proposal for my advantage, which I beg'd him not to do. I must now beg you to answer him in general terms of esteem for me (if I am so happy as to deserve these sentiments from you), but to delay all such schemes for farther consideration. I desire no greater advantages than those I reap at present for my attendance on your friend. I shall only be ambitious of enjoying them with honour, and the good opinion of you and my Lady Marchioness.

'I wish earnestly I cou'd join another more agreeable task to this I have undertaken,—the inspection of your nephews' education; where the little I know of books or the world, being sown on a proper soil, might give me the satisfaction of seeing some effects of my care and attention.

'Please favour me with a letter as soon as consists with your convenience; and direct to me at Weldehall, to the care of W. Thompson, at the chequer at Colney, Barnet Bag. There is no need of any precaution with regard to

large fortune, widow of Thomas Graham of Lynedoch. Sir John V. B. Johnstone, Bart. of Hackness, Yorkshire, M.P. for Scarborough, is in possession of the extensive states which belonged to his paternal grandmother, the Marchioness of Annandale. (Wood's *Peerage, ut supra*.)

your friend, and your letter will come more readily to hand this way than any other.—I am, Dear Sir, with great regard, your much oblig'd humble servant,

'DAVID HUME.'

'Weldehall, September, 19, 1745.

The subjoined letters from Mr Hume to Sir James Johnstone bear no date, but were evidently written early in the summer of 1745, previously to the baronet's departure for Westerhall, his seat near Langholm, in the county of Dumfries; to which place the two preceding letters were addressed:—

'SIR,

'I did not leave London till this morning, and, on my arrival here, found Mr Vincent just departing; so that I had not time to write by his servant. Your friend is really distrest with a colic, which the physician (who was here yesterday), thinks to be a new turn of his usual distemper. He is well in other respects; but I fancy you will delay your visit till you hear of his perfect recovery. If I find him quite well next week, I shall send in the chaise on Friday without waiting for new orders, unless you countermand it before.—I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'DAVID HUME.'

'Saturday.

'SIR,

'Your friend is, in a great measure, recover'd of his pain; but is still weak and low; so that it may be some days before he chooses to see company. If I find him well, I shall send in the chaise on Friday, unless you countermand it.

I wrote you on Saturday last. This comes by a servant whom we have sent to town.

'Monday, 10 o'clock.' (No Signature.)

The next letter that occurs is dated on the 22d of October, and addressed to the same gentleman, at Westerhall:—

'God forgive you, Dear Sir, God forgive you, for neither coming to us, nor writing to us. The unaccountable, and, I may say, the inhuman treatment we meet with here, throws your friend into rage and fury, and me into the greatest melancholy. My only comfort is when I think of your arrival; but still I know not when I can propose to myself that satisfaction. I flatter myself you have receiv'd two short letters I wrote within this month; though the uncertainty of the post gives me apprehension. I must again entreat you to favour me with a short line, to let me know the time you can propose to be with us; for, if it be near, I shall wait with patience and with pleasure; if distant, I shall write you at length, that you and my Lady Marchioness may judge of our circumstances and situation.—I am, Dear Sir, yours, with great sincerity,

'D. H.'

The following letter, likewise addressed to the baronet, is dated on the 31st of October:—

'Dear Sir,

'I shou'd make many apologies for these frequent letters, which I write to you. I hope you will not altogether ascribe it to the great impatience I have of seeing you, and hearing from you, but to the necessity of our affairs.

The present trouble is occasion'd by a letter wrote to my Lady by Mr V., about ten days ago, and which has since come to my knowledge. As I am in some measure ignorant both of its contents and of its consequences, I thought it proper to give you some sort of key to our present transactions, in such an imperfect manner as can be contain'd in the compass of a letter, and one which I am so uncertain will ever come to hand.

'I must begin by complaining of you for having yokt me here with a man of the captain's character, without giving me the least hint concerning it, if it was known to you, as indeed it is no secret to the world. You seemed satisfy'd with his conduct, and even prais'd him to me; which I am fully persuaded was the effect of your caution, not your conviction. However, I, who was altogether a stranger, enter'd into the family with so gross a prepossession. I found a man, who took an infinite deal of pains for another, with the utmost professions both of disinterestedness and friendship to him and me; and I readily concluded that such a one must be either one of the best, or one of the worst of men. I can easily excuse myself for having judg'd at first on the favourable side; and must confess that, when light first began to break in upon me, I resisted it as I would a temptation of the Devil. I thought it, however, proper to keep my eyes open for farther observation; till the strangest and most palpable facts, which I shall inform you of at meeting, put the matter out of all doubt to me.

'There is nothing he wou'd be fonder of than to sow dissension betwixt my Lady and you, whom he hates and fears. He flatters, and caresses, and praises, and hates me also; and would be glad to chase me away, as doing me the honour, and, I hope, the justice of thinking me a person very unfit for his purposes. As he wants all manner of pretext from my conduct and behaviour, he has broken his word,

and contriv'd a way of life for me which it is impossible for me or any other man ever to endure. Be not surpriz'd at this, nor imagine there is any contradiction betwixt what I here say and his seeming desire of attatching me by the offer he made me last summer. I shall explain that matter on a more proper occasion. Those, who work continually upon such dark intricate designs, must observe a conduct which, to persons at a distance, who have not the proper clue, must appear a continu'd scene of contradiction.

'The long and strange letter he wrote to you in August last, and which he enclos'd to my Lady, was, in most of its articles, contriv'd for nothing but to deter her from ever meddling in her son's affairs. Now, he writes her in a great hurry to entreat her to come up, and to tell her that, without her presence, every thing must go to confusion. He imagines (and, I hope, justly) that you are to be here soon. He knows I will open my breast to you, and that all his artifices and insinuations will have no effect with you. He endeavour'd to deter me from speaking to you, by saying, very imprudently, that he desir'd you to meddle as little in my Lord's affairs as possible. Having found all this in vain, he now plays another engine.

'That my Lady's presence wou'd be very agreeable, and very useful to us all, is most evident; but why the alarm shou'd be given so hot, is altogether inconceivable. For what is the mighty matter of dispute? Only about hiring a few carts to remove the family to another house, in order to quit this; which, for very good reasons, is infinitely disagreeable to your friend, very dangerous, will be uninhabitable for cold during the winter season, and costs 3 to 400 pound a year at least to the family, more than is requisite. He has been so imprudent as to confess in his letter to you that the plan I propose is the best, were he to begin. He feels the force and evidence of my reasons. He knows I will appeal to

you, and that he will be confounded. Upon this account, he chooses to raise a turmoil and confusion, in order to throw us all into disorder. His secret reasons for this conduct, the very dark ones, are no secrets to me, and shall be none to you, whenever I shall have the pleasure of seeing you.

'I hope my Lady is no ways prepossest in his favour, or at least has her ears open to conviction. He talks (but I dont believe him at present in any thing), as if there were a great friendship betwixt them. As to you, great care has been taken to inculcate on me, and almost every body else in the family, that you have nothing to do here; but as he is hated here, as well as every where else, I answer for all their obedience; and he shall be the boldest man in England, who will contradict whatever you and my Lady shall think proper to order. I conjoin your authorities, because they ought never to be thought of apart, and cannot be separated without the greatest disorder and confusion.

'I am sorry our affairs here shou'd add new anxieties to those with which you must be opprest, both on public and private accounts, during this miserable war. I intended to have delay'd mentioning these matters till your arrival; but as that appears very uncertain, and the letter I mention'd might give false alarms, I thought it requisite to give you some notion of the matter. You'll easily see that the point I urge can be of no consequence, on the one hand, to Mr V., if his intentions were fair; tho', on the other, it may be of very great to your friend and his family. A fine reason, indeed, for obliging my Lady to take a journey of 300 miles, in a hurry, and in the midst of winter, in order to hinder you from removing us from this house to one ten or twelve miles distant.

'I wish you wou'd bring this letter South with you; that, if you will allow it, I may show it to him. For I shall never make underhand insinuations to the prejudice of any man's

character. Nothing would prevent my showing it at present, but my uncertainty with regard to your's and my Lady's sentiments. He knows in general my opinion of matters; but as he still perseveres in his fawning compliments and civilities, I allow him; tho', I must confess, with a little sullenness and indignation, which I cannot, and care not, to dissemble.

'If you have no thoughts of being in London soon, I shall write you very fully of the whole matter, and shall show my letter to him, that he may either write or not write in opposition to it, as he shall see proper. I fancy that either way you will be equally convinc'd of what I have here told you. —I am, Dear Sir, with great regard, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Oct. 31. 'D. H.'

In a letter, dated on the 25th of November, and addressed to the same gentleman, Mr Hume says,

'Sir,

'Your friend continues still in good health. He made to Mr Vincent the same proposal about living altogether alone without any friend or companion. He told me so, very politely; adding that he had no exceptions to me, but only that solitude suited him better. I doubt not but this project will be greedily embrac'd by Mr V., as being really the drift of all his measures. I suspect it has been instill'd very lately into your friend; for we never heard of it till within these eight days. I still continue in the same resolution of weathering out all the difficulties and discouragements as long as possible, and as long as you can desire me; and I fancy this project will not be urg'd farther, if you oppose it, both because of its unreasonableness, and be-

cause it is the taking off the mask too soon. If I continue, you can easily operate a thorough reconciliation betwixt Mr Vincent and me (that is, a thorough seeming one); and it is strange he should affect any coldness, when the only thing he can accuse me of is the having an eye to you and the family, or to any thing beyond himself. He said, when he was here, that we shall live in this house till the lease was out, in spite of all opposition. So much is he a basha, and so little will he communicate or reason with any body.

'If he says any thing of me worth telling me (beyond the pretended ingratitude and rebellion), I shall expect you to inform me.

'It is utterly impossible for your friend to live in this house without a companion; because he must, in that case, pass the whole day alone, in a remote corner of a large house, which you easily see is very unsafe and improper; so that Mr V.'s obstinacy with regard to the house entangles him a little.

'I hope you have heard good news from your family. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Weldehall, Nov. 25, 1745. 'David Hume.'

Next day, the subsequent letter, with the accompanying documents, were sent by Mr Hume to Sir James:—

'Sir,

'I was somewhat surpriz'd to receive the enclos'd from Mr Vincent to-day. I wrote him an answer, of which the enclos'd is a copy; and I beg of you to read them both before you read any more of this letter, that you may know our situation.'

The following are the letter and answer referred to; which

we think it better, agreeably to Mr Hume's suggestion, to give in this place :—

'November 27, 1745.

'Sir,

'Hearing yesterday morning that my Lord and you were come to some explanations, which Panaiotty tells me are desired by both to be communicated to me, I believe you will be of opinion with me that it is very needless to enter into much detail on the matter, as my Lord seems determined, by what he has told you, and what he has at times mentioned to me, that there's no occasion for you remaining longer with him. I shall here add, that you may be fully satisfy'd, I would not promote your going, out of any pique, or for you thinking differently with me; it may, perhaps, be improper to say on how many occasions I have acted contrary to such sort of motives; as I am persuaded this point should be terminated with the bienséance of all sides; and being understood as above, I shall be ready to pay you your appointments up to the end of this year, which will be only the anticipation of a few months for putting in execution your intention of going in the spring, according to what you once told me.—I am, Sir, your most humble Servant,

'Mr Hume. 'Philip Vincent.'

The answer to the preceding letter is taken from a copy kept by Mr Hume :—

'I remember I have frequently told you, that this way of life was so melancholy and unsociable, that I did not think it wou'd be possible for me to continue in it longer than one year; but that, as things sometimes turn'd out differently from what one expected, and that a man often reconcil'd himself, by habit, to what at first he thought intolerable, I

always added that I shou'd make a trial this winter, and shou'd tell you my determination early in the spring. I said the same to Sir James Johnstone.

'My Lord told me that he desir'd to live altogether alone, without any friend or companion; which was his sole reason of his opening his mind in that manner to you and me; and I bid Panaiotty inform you and Sir James of all this, because I thought it fair that every thing shou'd be told on the one side as well as the other.

'You see, therefore, I have never given up my attendance on L. A., but only talkt of what might probably happen. And I confess that the professions of esteem and friendship I met with on all sides, as well as the steps I was engag'd to take in consequence of these, seem'd to require I shou'd be left to take my own time in leaving him, that is, provided I did nothing afterwards to forfeit his or his friends' good opinion of me.

'With regard to him, I believe you are sensible that I have always liv'd with him, and continue so to do, in a more equal way of complaisance and good humour, than cou'd well have been expected. Some little disgusts and humours cou'd not be prevented, and never were propos'd to be of any consequence.

'As to his friends, and you in particular, tho' I have been once of a different opinion from you, I always manag'd the argument with decency and good manners, as far as I remember, and as you acknowledg'd to me very lately. If any contrary expressions have escap'd me, which I do not remember, they were the effects of melancholy and chagrin, for which I am sorry, and which I am willing to acknowledge.

'I conclude that it is not improbable but I may of myself come to the determination you point at, with regard to the time of my stay here, but that I have not yet done it; and that, in all cases, I desire to stay or go, in the same or greater

degree of friendship and regard with you and all my Lord's friends, than what we first met with. The momentary effect of passion I can forgive in others, and acknowledge in myself; and the keeping of rancour on these accounts without explanation or mutual forgiveness, is a conduct I shall never observe myself, or expect from your good sense and candour.

'As this frankness is worthy of honest men, I hope you will approve of my applying to Sir James Johnstone on this occasion, and my desiring the interposal of his good offices in order to effect it. I am, Sir, &c.

'P. S.—My Lord, so far from having a quarrel with me, said this evening, that he wish'd we cou'd form a plan, by which we might go together to some foreign country, change our names, and remain absolutely conceal'd or unknown. You see, then, that his proposals proceed only from his excessive love of solitude.'

Next is subjoined the remainder of Mr Hume's letter to Sir James, of which the first paragraph was given at p. 27:—

'As this measure is taken without communicating it to you, though you be in town, it shows the same spirit and intentions which I have explain'd to you. How far you will think it proper to oppose them now in the beginning, or what measures you will take for that purpose, I am not a proper person to determine. You see he wants to put it upon me that I leave your friend, which is false, as I explain'd the matter to him and to you. Indeed he has no other pretext; and, therefore, if he be oppos'd in this point, he must have recourse to his absolute will and pleasure; and his sole motive is, that I lookt beyond him, and thought other persons ought also to be consulted concerning your friend's situation.

'If you cannot prevail as to the making up of this breach entirely (which I must consider as altogether affected on his side), I wou'd humbly desire you to make him this proposal, —that I shall stay out the year and the next quarter; and, as about the time when that shall terminate, he will be thinking of coming out here, your friend may continue without any companion all summer, and against next winter you or he, or rather indeed he, may look out for one. By this means there will be a considerable saving to your friend; all eclat or rupture will be prevented, and some time gain'd to look for better incidents and opportunities.'

'I doubt not but you will also think so small a request due, in some measure, to me, who depended upon your good will and friendship, and who am sacrifiz'd for no other reason but that I had a regard to you.

'You may add as an additional reason, that, by the terms of our contract, if I leave your friend by the second of January, I am entitled to my whole year's sallary. For tho' it was always far from my intention to take any such advantages, and I shall faithfully compleat the time, yet it is in my power; and my behaviour in this particular merits some consideration.

'I am told by Panaiotty, my Lord's valet, that he had a commission to you and Mr Vincent, chiefly with regard to the retrenchment of his family; and, by the bye, with regard to me, that he desir'd to live alone, without any friend or companion. Mr V. told him (when he desir'd to know your lodgings, in order to deliver you his commission also) that that was not necessary, and that he himself wou'd answer it.

'With regard to me, he answers very neatly and clearly: with regard to the other point, he will not move a step. Your friend repeated to me, to-day, that he had a great regard and friendship for me; and that nothing induc'd him to make such proposals but his desire of an absolute solitude.

'In compliance with your desire, I have put it absolutely upon Mr V. to tell me that there is no farther occasion for my service. This step I see he is unwilling to take; and still more unwilling to declare the reason.

'I hope you will allow me, when I shall see you, to put into your hands the paper I read you, that all friends may see the point in which we differ'd; as the other paper, with these letters, will show the manner in which this difference has been conducted.

'You see by the enclos'd copy of my letter what compliance I have made to this man, in order to soften matters. I shall surely never go any farther with one whom I have so bad an opinion of; and I hope you will never desire me.

'I wou'd desire to know the result of your conference, as well as your own opinion, as soon as convenient; by the bearer if possible; both because he is to be here next week, and I wou'd know upon what footing to speak to him, and because I shall take my measures according to the issue you have fixt.

'One advantage of adding a new quarter to my year's attendance is, that you may have an opportunity of knowing my Lady's opinion, and of informing her yourself of all matters, which will not at present be proper to write by the post.

'I must desire you, from my knowledge of the man's character, to beware of all ambiguous or equivocal answers. You may tell him positively that I have not given up attendance on your friend; and ask him whether he intends to turn me off, and for what reason.

'I assure you, he talks at present in a much higher style than he did before you came hither; but, perhaps, a little firmness may make him abate of his arrogances.

'As I heard you were to have a conference with him to-morrow, I dispatcht a servant with these letters, that you might be instructed in all particulars. I have ordered him to wait

for your answer, if you thought proper. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Wednesday, Nov. 26. 'DAVID HUME.'

The next letter has no date, but I think it may here stand in its proper place. It is addressed to Sir James Johnstone.

'SIR,

'Tho' I had business which requir'd my being in town, I rather chose to send the chaise empty, in order to give Mr Vincent an opportunity of coming out along with you, that the subject of our dispute may be discusst before all parties. I have told my Lord of your coming, and, at the same time, told him that we intended to reason the matter concerning which he is so earnest, and that we shou'd have more freedom if we were left together some time. He easily understood my meaning, and will not be surpriz'd if he see you and Mr Vincent and I retire from him a little.

'Mr Vincent and I have always talkt on this subject without an indecent, or even without a passionate expression, at least on my part; and as we have agreed to write down our reasons separately, this will keep us to more method and order. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Friday. 'DAVID HUME.'

'P.S.—My Lord is very well at present.'

The following letter ought possibly to have preceded the one just given; but the inversion, if any has taken place, is of little moment. It is dated on the 27th of November.

'SIR,

'I had not time nor leizure yesterday to write to you all the reflections which this last extraordinary inci-

dent might occasion, and therefore use the freedom to give you this fresh trouble.

'I must own it was with excessive reluctance I wrote so softening and obliging a letter to this man; but, as I knew that such a method of proceeding was conformable to your intentions, I thought it my duty to comply. However, I easily saw 'twou'd all be vain, and wou'd only fortify him in his arrogance. Do you think that the absolute possession of so ample a fortune, to which this is the first requisite step, is a prize to be resign'd for a few fair words or flattering professions? He deals too much in that bait himself ever to be caught with it by others.

'I think this is the last opportunity that will ever offer of retrieving the family and yourself (as far as you are concerned with the family), from falling into absolute slavery to so odious a master. If, in the beginning, and while he is watcht by jealous eyes, he can attempt such things, what will he not do when he has fixt his authority, and has no longer any inspector over him?

'Tis lucky, therefore, that this, as it seems the last, is so good an opportunity. Nothing was ever so barefac'd as his conduct. To quarrel with me, merely because I civilly supported a most reasonable project; to threaten me with his vengeance, if I open'd my lips to you concerning your friend's affairs; to execute that threat, without a pretext, or without consulting you; these steps give us such advantages over him as must not be neglected.

'I hope you will not take it amiss, if I say, that your conduct with regard to your friend, and to those who have at different times been about him, has all along been too gentle and cautious. I had considerably shaken the authority of this man (though I had no authority myself), merely by my firmness and resolution. He now assumes more, when he observes your precautions.

'But, as I do not believe that, though your firmness may daunt him, it will ever engage him to loose hold of so fine a prize, it will be requisite to think of more effectual remedies. Happily there is time enough both to contrive and to execute. For though he makes me the offer of present payment (which I hope you observ'd), in order to engage me to leave you presently, he shall not get rid of me so easily.

'The only difficulty, you know, is with regard to a third person, who must be pleas'd and satisfy'd; and unhappily all intercourse with her is cut off at present. But, as we may hope, it will soon be open'd, it will be proper for you, in my humble opinion, to write to her strongly in my favour, and at the same time defy him to say any thing to the contrary. You may, if you please, ask of her, only a reprieve till you can see her, and then you may lay before her all I told you, and whatever more this winter shall produce; as I doubt not but it will produce several incidents to our purpose. For 'tis impossible such a man can be a month without betraying himself.

'If our intercourse with her should still continue to be interrupted, you may tell him plainly that he has no authority to take such steps of himself, and that you are resolv'd I shall remain till my Lady be satisfy'd. When you have fortify'd me with this declaration, he shall be a very bold man who will offer to gainsay it.

'I doubt not but you are convinc'd that nothing will ever be gain'd by yielding to so much arrogance. I might, I believe, by compliance have remain'd as long as I pleas'd, because he cou'd entertain no jealousy of me; but he knows that your title to authority is so much better than his own, that he never will think himself fully secur'd till you are entirely remov'd. For this reason, he does not pretend to act in conjunction with you, nor will admit you to any share

of his councils; but has, from the very beginning, even before he had any occasion to find you of a different opinion from him, erected altar against altar, or rather attempted to erect a throne over your footstool.

'He told one of the servants here, that he said to you, that he was the nearest relation, and that he wou'd admit of no interference in these affairs. I do not believe he was so impudent. He only says such things behind your back at present. A month hence, he will say them to your face, if yielded to.

'He pretends to have great deference to the Sollicitor-General, because he knows he has too much business to mind these matters, or give a diligent inspection to his conduct. May it not be proper to prepossess him in my favoure?

'You have some reason to take amiss my asking so small a boon as that of a quarter's prolongation of my term of banishment. But I dreaded, and still dread, your gentleness and caution.

'You may be assured that 'tis absolutely impossible for any body to live better with your friend than I have done all along, and still continue to do. Even our usurper has remarkt it with surprize. How happens it, says he, a little before his departure hence, that you are never the object of his satyre and oblique raillery, to which we are all so much exposed? Your friend made me remark last night (what indeed is pretty obvious), that he possesses his faculties much more, and has a more easy conversation with me than with any body else; after which he nam'd particularly Vincent and his wife. These proposals, as he confesses himself, come only from his excessive love of solitude; which ought to be comply'd with, to a reasonable degree. 'Tis with horror he thinks of that couple's coming out again to live with him. Yet if their projects take place, they will never be absent from him.

'By the bye, how does this offer of paying me presently three hundred pounds, agree with the scarcity of money, and Mr V.'s being obliged to advance of his own for the maintainance of the family? I hope you will examine that fact.

'I shall also conclude with putting you in mind, that the papers, which were too easily granted this man in the spring, only empowered him to pay me (by name) £300 a year; but not to turn me off, or conclude a bargain with any body else. So that none of his contracts of this kind will be binding.

'I shall not, however, conclude without telling you, that, when I became absolutely certain of this man's character, I was anxious to know the character he bore in the world; and for that purpose wrote to Mr Oswald* (with whom I live in great intimacy), to desire him to inform himself of the matter; which he was easily enabled to do by his connexions in the navy. He answer'd me that he was universally regarded as a low, dirty, despicable fellow; and particularly infamous for pimping his wife to another peer. That is a fact, I have also some reason to know; and tallies exactly with what I told you. You may ask Oswald.

'I must conclude at last, which I shall do, by asking your pardon for so long a letter. I am, Sir, your most oblig'd humble Servant,

'November 27, 1745. 'David Hume.'

The subsequent letter, though it bears no precise date, obviously refers to the same unhappy subject as the preceding, and, like that communication, and others in this volume, is not incurious as the production of a philosopher,

* James Oswald of Dunikier, then Member of Parliament for the Kirkcaldy district of Boroughs.

who, in his autobiography, characterizes himself as 'a man of mild disposition,' and 'of command of temper.'

'Saturday

'Sir,

'I receiv'd by my Lord a letter from Vincent, which he immediately burnt in a passion. The purport of it was this; that he (Vincent) desir'd to see me as soon as possible; that my money was ready for me; and that my attendance on my Lord was no longer necessary, since he did not any longer desire it. I have sent the following answer:—

"Sir,

"I receiv'd your letter from my Lord, who says that you have all along utterly mistaken his meaning, and that he desires not I shou'd leave him, and other circumstances remain as before. On the contrary, he is so polite as to tell me, that my company is not disagreeable to him, and that, provided other circumstances be rang'd according to his desire, he shou'd be very willing I shou'd stay with him, or near him, and have the honour of seeing him frequently. Much less does he desire, that I shou'd leave him, and another be sought in my place; since it is your declar'd intention, by what you wrote us both, some time ago, that he shou'd not be without a friend and companion. He says, besides, that there was not a word of my name in the message he sent you, and from which you have taken occasion to write me this letter. I know not how to act amidst all these contrarieties and irresolutions. I am, &c.

"P.S.—I have shewn this letter to my Lord, who says it is quite conformable to his intentions."

'Is not this very diverting? I wait your orders. You see to what straits this honest gentleman is reduc'd to find a pretext. But I fancy he must prevail at last; and I shall take care not to be a bone of contention betwixt you, unless you think that I am the most advantageous piece of ground on which you can resist him. I am, dear Sir, yours most sincerely,

'DAVID HUME.'

'I had a conversation here, which will divert you when I shall have the pleasure of seeing you.

'P.S.—Since I wrote the above, my Lord brought me a letter he had wrote to Vincent, wherein he tells him positively that he will be first fixt in a little house and a few servants, after which he will take his resolution with regard to me, and that, till this be done, he will not part with me. This was a very happy thought, and entirely his own. 'Tis the proper means of reducing Vincent to a nonplus, and perhaps of making a compromise with him. I am not now any way impatient or melancholy, but can laugh at all this.'

The following is a postscript; to what letter it should be appended, I cannot ascertain; but it refers to the same period as the preceding letters, and was evidently intended for Sir James Johnstone. It bears no date, and is not addressed.

'P.S.

'When I put this letter (or one to the same purpose), into Mr Vincent's hands, telling him, that, though I had wrote it, I did not intend to send it at present, he told me

he was glad of that, because he desir'd you shou'd intermeddle as little as possible in these affairs; adding, that he intended, by keeping my Lord's person and his English affairs in his own hands, to free my Lady from all slavery to you.

'Ever since, no entreaties, no threatenings have been spar'd to make me keep silence to you; to which my constant answer was, that I thought not that consistent with my duty. I told him freely, that I wou'd lay all the foregoing reasons before you, when you came to London, and hopt you wou'd prevail with him to alter his opinion. If not, we shou'd all write, if you thought proper, to my Lady Marchioness, in order to have her determination. The endeavouring, then, to make me keep silence to you, was also to keep my Lady in the dark about such material points, since I cou'd not have access to let her know the situation of our affairs, by any other means.

'He offer'd to let me leave your friend in the beginning of winter, if I pleas'd, provided I would make no opposition to his plan, that is, wou'd not inform you; for I was not capable of making any other opposition. He added, he wou'd allow me my sallary for the whole year, and that he wou'd himself supply my place, leave his house in London, and live with your friend. Can all this pains be taken, merely for the difference betwixt one house and another?

'An evening or two before his departure from Weldehall, he offer'd me the continuance of the same friendship, which had always subsisted betwixt us, if I wou'd promise not to open my lips to you about this matter.

'The morning of his departure, he burst out all of a sudden, when the subject was not talkt of, into threatenings, and told me, that, if I ever enter'd upon this subject with you, I shou'd repent it. He went out of the house presently, and these were almost his last words.

'I presume, if my whole conduct and behaviour, since I attended your friend, have been in other respects unexceptionable (which I hope Mr V. will allow), I shall never incur any blame upon that account.

'I never open'd my lips, directly or indirectly, to your friend upon this topic, nor encourag'd his humours and fancies. He gave Mr Vincent his word of honour before me, that, till within a few days, he did not so much as know I was of the same opinion with himself. I did then, indeed, in order to pacify him, give him hopes that your good sense and compassion wou'd bring him some relief, by removing this cause of anxiety, which is so prejudicial to his health and temper. I have never since mentioned the subject to him.

'This repeated vehemence, and my constant refusal to be silent to you, was the cause of that alarming letter to my Lady, where she was told that her son was become altogether ungovernable, and that nothing but her presence here cou'd compose matters. A very extraordinary reason to make a sickly lady travel three hundred miles in the depth of winter, and to throw such a useless alarm into the breast of a tender parent! Is it so great a matter to remove a family twelve or fourteen miles?

'You see by my letter what a scheme is pusht, so expensive to the family, so dangerous to your friend, and so cruel both to him and me, without the least shadow of reason, as far as I can judge. You see also what arts are employ'd to render this scheme effectual, viz., entreaties and threatenings, and even bribes offer'd to make me keep silence, and huddle up all matters in the dark. It may now be proper to inform you what end is propos'd by all this, and what interest engages Mr Vincent into so unaccountable a method of proceeding.

'When the design of continuing here began to break out

by chance and by degrees (for a contrary resolution seem'd to be taken in the beginning of summer), I told him, that I was sorry for it; that that was a course of life which I cou'd not approve of for your friend, and to which, for my own part, I never cou'd be reconcil'd; that I wou'd endeavour to make out the year; but that I believ'd it wou'd be impossible for me to stay any longer. He reply'd, that a man of my sense and judgement never took a resolution, but upon good grounds, and that 'twas needless to endeavour to dissuade such people. This was telling me, in his very civil way, that I was welcome to be gone, if I pleas'd.

'This past in August. As winter was yet distant, and I saw no present remedy, I remain'd very quiet, and always talkt upon the footing, as if I was to depart very soon, and without making any opposition. One day I told him, that, since he had alter'd his scheme so considerably, as to the place of our abode, he ought also to alter it further, and not place a gentleman about your friend, but one who cou'd eat and converse with the servants and neighbouring farmers, and by that means enjoy some society, without which no human creature cou'd live. He reply'd, that is my intention, if you prosecute your resolution of leaving us.

'You see then what dissimulation and artifice is here employed with regard to the family. For if such a scheme was adviseable, why not propose it directly? Why employ so many fetches and artifices to render it effectual?

'What cruelty with regard to your friend, whom he keeps in torment meanwhile, and exposes to the greatest danger.

'What deceit, and I may say treachery, with regard to me, whom he loaded with professions of friendship, and yet was undermining all the time.

'May I not safely say, that this scheme is very improper? Your friend has still remaining so much spirit and taste of

every thing, especially of books, as to require the company of a man of education.

'His situation exposes him to the artifices of sharpers, from which the attendance of a common servant will never sufficiently secure the family.

'Mr Vincent may be call'd to sea in a day. What becomes of your friend?

'What I have said above consists of facts, which I know. The rest is only my own conjecture. He always declares his resolution of leaving this country very soon, which, he says, is neither agreeable to his health nor humour. I have heard him say to your friend, that he may probably show him again those foreign countries, of which he is so fond. He dropt a hint, in his letter to you, as if travelling with a sure hand (which I suppose is himself) wou'd not be improper for your friend. May we not conjecture, that this scheme is an addition to his other projects?

'I have put all this in writing for greater exactness, and permit you to make whatever use of it you think proper.

'David Hume.'

We have already given some letters written by Captain Vincent relative to Mr Hume; from which it is evident how highly at first he respected that eminent man, and valued his services, and how cordially they acted together. This, however, was not of long standing, as is evident from the letters of Mr Hume already quoted. Of Mr Vincent's letters respecting his misunderstanding with the Marquis's guardian, only one, belonging to the year 1745, is known to be preserved. It is dated on the 7th of November, and is addressed to the Marchioness of Annandale. A portion of this letter is now subjoined.

'I will venture to say I have the knack of parrying and managing him, but that Mr Hume, who is so extraordinarily well paid, only for his company, and lodged and lives that, if it was at his own expense, he could not do it for £200 a year, should be gloomy and inconsolable for want of society, and shew, for this good while past, little or no sign of content or gratitude to me for all I have done, and the best intentions to serve him, and principally promoted his being in this station, and repeatedly offered to come out frequently during the winter and stay two or three days at a time, whilst he should be in town. I shall do so, but nowise in consideration to him, but out of tenderness and regard to our friend. Mr Hume is a scholar, and I believe an honest man; but one of his best friends at Edinburgh at first wrote me, he had conversed more with books than the world, or any of the elegant part of it, chiefly owing to the narrowness of his fortune. He does not in this case seem to know his own interest, tho' I have long perceived it is what he mostly has a peculiar eye to. Hereafter I shall consider him no more than if I had never known him. Our friend in reality does not desire he should stay with him. I don't see his policy in offering to oppose my pleasure, and think it very wrong in him to mention his appealing to Sir James Johnstone. I dare say your Ladyship thinks as I do, that it is unbecoming for me to be in a subservient state in such a case to any body. I am very zealously disposed to be accountable to you; both regard, civility, justice, long friendship and acquaintance, as well as near relationship, are all the motives in the world for it; and I hoped my being concerned would produce all possible good effects in your having constant, true, and satisfactory accounts, as well as that, in due time, those advantages in your own affairs might be accruing which you are so justly entitled to, and which I have before declared to be one of the main

ends to be accomplished, and which I believe you think I could effect better than another. It is not one of the most pleasing circumstances that, in the situation of our friend, it is an inlet to strangers, taken in by accident, to be too much acquainted with private family affairs. I certainly desire that Sir James and I should be in good correspondence, and I believe he is satisfied of that; but this man taking it into his head to thwart my methods, and all to gratify his own desire of being near town in the winter forsooth; after the offer I have made of giving him relief sometimes, and as nothing will satisfy some dispositions, I shall, at the end of the year, close all accounts, in which there will be done what was never done before, a complete state of the receipt and the expense, and then very willingly desire to be excused from having any farther concern. Most certainly I would do every thing in my power to serve and oblige you; but if you desire the continuance of my care, please to write to Sir James to signify occasionally to Mr Hume that the management is left to me, and not to a stranger, who, if he is not satisfied, is at his liberty to remove from such attendance. If he will be easy, I don't urge to have him removed to gratify any pique of my own. I believe him to have merit in the learned world; and if our friend is contented with him, which I may affirm he is not, I have nothing to say, provided he observes the conditions above mentioned. But I am not to go through every part of the thing from the most laborious to the minutest, and to gratify this man in all points besides. He makes pretence of our friend's disliking the place, and that it is not safe for him in many respects; but better judges than he know and think otherwise, and how he has done all along. Please to think of all this with your own good nature and good sense, and in the easy manner it should be thought of, and I beg you to write soon to Sir James on the subject.' * * *

The six following letters, all addressed to Sir James Johnstone, have no date, but they are docketed 1746; consequently they are posterior to those already given.

'Sir,

'Your friend is far from being well; but it seems to be nothing but his usual disorder that has fallen into a low way, and fills him with a hundred imaginary complaints, and renders him peevish to the last degree. I am afraid this may last for some time. It renders him very uneasy to himself, and to every body about him. Whatever desire I may have to see you here, I suppose you will not think it proper to pay your visit at present. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Saturday. 'David Hume.'

'Sir,

'I did write you the very first occasion after I came out thither. But I find my letters have great difficulty to reach you; for which reason I shall put this into the post-house myself, to prevent such practices as I suspect are us'd in this family. I have some reason also to think that spies are plac'd upon my most indifferent actions. I told you that I had had more conversation with one of the servants than was natural, and for what reason. Perhaps this fellow had the same privilege granted him as other spies, to rail against his employer, in order to draw in an unguarded man to be still more unguarded. But such practices, if real (for I am not altogether certain), can only turn to the confusion of those who use them. Where there is no arbitrary power, innocence must be safe; and if there be arbitrary power in this family, 'tis long since I knew I cou'd not remain in it. What a scene is this for a man nourish'd in philosophy and polite letters to enter into, all

of a sudden, and unprepar'd! But I can laugh, whatever happens; and the newness of such practices rather diverts me. At first they caus'd indignation and hatred; and even (tho' I am asham'd to confess it,) melancholy and sorrow.

'Your friend has recover'd his colic; but is fallen into a fit of very low spirits and vapours. I wish this may not hold him long. I know not whether you wou'd choose to come out, while he is in this condition. You may command the chaise and horses at any time. I am, Sir, with great regard, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Saturday. 'DAVID HUME.'

'Sir,

'I am desir'd by my Lord to make his compliments to you, and to express his concern for your illness. I hope it is now over in a great measure. My Lord himself does not recover so well as cou'd be wisht. Your company wou'd always be agreeable here; but more so at present, as it wou'd be a mark of your total recovery. I am, Dear Sir, your most obedient Servant,

'Tuesday, 11 o'clock. 'DAVID HUME.'

'Sir,

'Your friend is almost entirely recover'd, and is now well in every respect. You may command the horses and chaise any time you'll please to order them. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Friday evening. 'DAVID HUME.'

'Sir,

'I have little more to say to you than that

your friend continues still in good health and good humour. I informed you of his recovery by a letter dated on Tuesday last, which I sent in the common way, and which I find has not reacht you in the course of post. I shall put this into the post-house myself. 'Tis remarkable, that four days is just the time requisite for a letter to go to town, to come back hither, and to return again to town. If the same difference happen with regard to this letter and the last, it will amount to a demonstration. Good God!!! I only wish these letters had not been directed to you; for, as to their being seen, it is not, in my opinion, a farthing's matter.

'I believe I shall be in town on Monday or Tuesday, when I shall pay my respects to you. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Saturday. 'DA. HUME.'

'Sir,

'You seem uneasy that all my letters have been open'd, and so am I too; but, as I think I have in all of them us'd the precaution to name no-body, and to date from no place, and even not to subscribe the letters, it can be of no consequence, and can only proceed from the universal practice of opening all letters at present; though none of mine ever came to me in that manner. A clerk in the post-office opens a letter, runs it over, and, finding it concerns only private business, forwards it presently, and thinks no farther of the matter: so that, what one writes of that kind, seems to me as safe as what one says. However, as you appear to think otherwise, I shall be more cautious for the future. The unexpected vexations I met with (which I hope will now soon have an end, some way or other), made me glad, on every occurrence, to open my mind to you, and my great leizure gave me full opportunity. This is my

reason, or at least my excuse, for troubling you so frequently.

'Your friend still keeps his health and temper to admiration. I am, Sir, with great regard, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Wednesday. 'Da. Hume.'

The next letter, written by Mr Hume, is addressed to Lord Elibank:*—

'My Lord,

'I have copy'd out half a dozen of Epigrams, which I hope will give you entertainment. The thought in them is indeed little inferior to that in the celebrated Epigrams of Rousseau; tho' the versification be not so correct. What a pity! I say this on account both of the author and myself; for I am afraid I must leave him. Vincent is resolv'd on the matter, and has wrote me that my appointments are too large, and must be diminisht. This, you are sensible, is indirectly bidding me go away. The matter must be determin'd by Lady Annandale, who does nothing without Sir James Johnstone's advice; and I wish he may not comply with the proposal from a false notion of frugality. However, I still entertain some hopes, that, if your Lordship will be so kind as to represent to him the ungenteelness, and even indignity of this way of proceeding, as well as what I believe to be his own interest in the case, he may be prevail'd with

* Patrick, 5th Lord Elibank, the brother of Lady Johnstone of Westerhall. Of his Lordship, who was author of several pamphlets of merit, and who cultivated the society of literary men, Dr Johnson said, 'Lord Elibank has read a great deal, but he has a great deal of what is in books proved by the test of real life.' (Boswell's *Tour to the Hebrides*, p. 402, ed. 1784.) See also Stewart's *Life of Robertson*, p. 10.

to support me. We shall see an issue of this matter in a few posts. I am, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

'Weldehall, March 29, 1746. 'David Hume.'

This communication his Lordship enclosed in the following letter written by him, agreeably to Mr Hume's wish, to Sir James Johnstone:—

'Dear Sir,

'This I hope will find you well and happy at your own fireside. We hear but seldom from Scotland, and are in great uncertainty about what passes amongst you there. I find, however, that we must pay the land-tax in East Lothian a second time, under pain of military execution, which hardship never was imposed on any part of England. I take the liberty to send you the enclosed from David Hume, and am persuaded you'll think it for your own interest to comply with the request of it. I own it is my opinion that Vincent's only view in turning off Hume is, that he finds him an obstacle to selfish views of his own, to which even Lady Annandale may in time become a sacrifice. This I say from my personal knowledge of the man. I ever am, Dear Sir, yours, while

'April 3, 1746. 'Elibank.'

The subjoined letter is the last but one, that Mr Hume wrote from Weldehall, and bears the same date as that addressed to Lord Elibank:—

'Dear Sir,

'I past all the day after you left us with Mr Vincent, and he never mention'd a word of the proposal he made you: I saw him twice since, and he was equally silent. I

was in hopes that the cold manner in which you receiv'd it, had discourag'd him; but at last he has wrote me about it, tho' without mentioning any particular terms, but referring to a conversation we shall have next week. I am determin'd to answer him as I told you, and afterwards to write, according to the sketch I show'd you, with the alterations you propos'd.

'Meanwhile, I own to you, that my heart rebells against this unworthy treatment; and nothing but the prospect of depending entirely on you, and being independent of him, cou'd make me submit to it. I have fifty resolutions about it. My loss, in ever hearkening to his treacherous professions, has been very great; but, as it is now irreparable, I must make the best of a bad bargain. I am proud to say that, as I am no plotter myself, I never suspect others to be such, till it be too late; and, having always liv'd independent, and in such a manner as that it never was any one's interest to profess false friendship to me, I am not sufficiently on my guard in this particular.

'I must beg of you, that, if you cannot prevail to have matters continue on the present footing (as you most approve of, and think most reasonable), you may propose at least, that the diminution be made only for the ensuing year, on account of the £100 remitted me before I came up. This will be less disagreeable and less disobliging; and will still leave the matter open for an ensuing year, when you may act as will then seem most suitable. If these people come hither this summer, I shall be expos'd to all the same or greater insolencies and insults; and nothing will be able to save me from them so much as this mark of regard and attention. I therefore repeat my request, that matters be put upon this footing if possible. You will then be better able to judge of the success of my endeavours, which are at present very promising. My way of living is more melancholy than ever

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was submitted to by any human creature, who ever had any hopes or pretensions to any thing better; and if to confinement, solitude, and bad company, be also added these marks of disregard, * * * I shall say nothing, but only that books, study, leisure, frugality, and independence, are a great deal better.

'Whatever terms are propos'd to me, I must put you in mind of your promise, that this quarter at least, be left to me on the same terms as before, in case I shou'd refuse what are offer'd; for tho' I think with you that I am entitled to this small advantage, such a clause will prevent all chicane and dispute. I am sure you are too much my friend, and too reasonable, to advise me to accept of any other terms than what I mention'd. A friend or two in London, to whom I communicated this matter, are even averse to the same, and think I affront myself by admitting of any alteration; so that my mind is extremely divided about the matter. You have seen what a task I must sometimes undergo, and not always without danger. If I have any pretensions to parts and learning, they are both requisite in my present situation; the one to keep in friendship with a person of your friend's taste; the other to support this dismal solitude. My only crime has been too little dissimulation, and too strong an indignation at meeting with treachery and perfidiousness, where I did not expect it. But I need not insist further on this matter with you, who are as sensible as myself of the reasonableness of what I say.

'I am fully persuaded that, if my Lady were but inform'd of this one circumstance, that her son rejected this proposal with disdain, it wou'd be sufficient; but I shall not mention it in my letter, because, as you observ'd very well, it will have more force, when urg'd by a friend.

'Next to the saving me from this indignity, the greatest favour you can do me, is to bring the matter to a speedy

issue. I am, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'Weldehall, March 29, 1746. 'David Hume.'

'P. S.

'Your friend's illness has been much slighter than usual. 'Vincent mentions Major Johnstone, who travel'd with my Lord, and had but L.150. But that gentlemen never was fixt with him; he only kept a general inspection over him, without neglecting his other affairs, and might be pleas'd to take a jaunt abroad, on condition his charges might be borne. Besides, he was never affronted in this manner; and you are sensible that a man who is to be a friend and comrade to L. A. ought to be a gentleman, and treated as such. He thinks so himself. If my conduct has been not only irreproachable but laudable (bating perhaps too great openness and want of design and suspicion), I ought not to be treated as criminal. If it be not, I ought not to stay at all. Your friend cannot and will not see any company but one single person. On his conduct and discretion, must all the hopes you can have of his recovery depend. 'Tis strange so considerable sums shou'd be lavisht on apothecaries and physicians, who perhaps do hurt, and a moderate sum be grudg'd to one that sacrifices all his time to him. I say all this, not that I think it will escape you, but in order to vent my spleen and indignation. I confess I have chang'd opinions, even since I began to write this letter, and you need not be surpriz'd if you find me of a different opinion when matters come to a decision, to what I was when I converst with you. Sure I am, that, if you cannot prevail to make me receive better treatment, my connexion with the family will be very short, and give me occasion all my life to reflect on the mischiefs arising from too great trust and confidence.'

The next letter, addressed to the Marchioness, is so far as we know, the last that Mr Hume wrote from Weldehall:—

'MADAM,

'I hope your Ladyship will excuse this trouble from a person, who has not the honour of being personally known to you. My connexion with Lord Annandale has embolden'd me to use this freedom.

'I had the honour of a letter from my Lord Marquess last spring, inviting me to London, which I accordingly obey'd. He made me proposals of living with him; and Mr Vincent, in concert with Sir James Johnstone, mention'd at first the yearly sallary of 300 Pound as an allowance which they thought reasonable; because my Lord had always pay'd so much to all the other gentlemen that attended him, even when his way of living, in other particulars, was much more expensive than at present. Since that, Mr Vincent thinks this allowance too much, and proposes to reduce it from 300 to 150 Pound. My answer was, that what ever your Ladyship and my Lord shou'd think my attendance merited, that I wou'd very willingly accept of. As he still insisted on the reasonableness of his opinion, I have us'd the freedom to apply to your Ladyship, to whose sentiments every one, that has the honour of being connected with the family of Annandale, owe so entire a deference. I shall not insist on any circumstances in my own favour. Your Ladyship's penetration will easily be able to discover those, as well as what may be urg'd in favour of Mr Vincent's opinion. And your determination shall be entirely submitted to by me. I am, Madam, your Ladyship's most obedient humble Servant,

'Weldehall, Aprile 3, 1746. 'DAVID HUME.'

Her Ladyship's answer is as follows :—

'Sir,

'I received yours of y^e^ 3d of Aprile only last post, and wish it were in my power to give an answer to the satisfaction of all partys; but it's so delicate a point for me to determine, where my dear son is concern'd, and two such near relations and friends as Sir James Johnstone and my cousin Vincent, who, I am persuaded, has my dear son's health, happyness, and interest at heart in all shapes, and as they must be the best judges of what my dear son's affairs can admitt of (in times that neither rents nor joynters can be paid), so my dear son and they are the properest persons to determine; but I am as much oblig'd for the regard you express for my sentiments as I am for your willingness to submit to it.—I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

'Aprile y^e^ 15, 1746, 'C. Annandale.'

The subsequent letter was addressed to Sir James Johnstone by Henry Home, afterwards Lord Kames,—and is equally honourable to the writer of it, and to the friend on whose behalf he makes the application :—

'Kames, 14th April, 1746.

'Sir,

'I had a letter from my friend David Home*

* Though both the family to which Mr Hume belonged, and that which Mr Henry Home represented, traced their descent from the noble house of Home, their surnames were somewhat differently spelled. So partial was Mr Home to his own mode of orthography, that, even when formally writing on the business of his friend, he would not, as is evident from the letter quoted in the text, call him *Hume*, but adopted his own surname, as, in his opinion, the only correct one. The following extract from a codicil to Mr Hume's will, written with his own hand, and dated on the 7th of August, 1776, within less than three weeks of his

lately, which surprised me not a little, as if there were a plot formed against him to diminish his salary. For my part, I was never hearty in his present situation; as I did not consider the terms offered as any sufficient temptation for him to relinquish his studies, which, in all probability, would redound more to his advantage some time or other. For this reason, tho' I had a good deal of indignation at the dishonourable behaviour of the author of this motion, yet underhand I was not displeased with any occasion, not blameable on my friend's part, to disengage him. I thought instantly of writing him a letter not to stay upon any terms after such an affront; but, reflecting upon your interest in this matter, I found such an advice would be inconsistent with the duty I owe you, and therefore stopped short till I should hear from you. I'm well apprized of the great tenderness you have for your poor chief; and it is certainly of some consequence that he should have about him at least one person of integrity; and it should have given me pain to be the author of an advice that might affect you, though but indirectly. At the same time, I cannot think of sacrificing my friend, even upon your account, to make him submit to dishonourable terms; and, therefore, if you esteem his attendance of any use to the Marquis, I beg you'll interpose that no more attempts of this kind be made. For I must be so free to declare that, should he himself yield to accept of lower terms, which I trust he will not be so mean spirited to do, he shall never have my consent, and I know he will

death, shews that he was not less strenuous in support of the *u* than others were in favour of the *o*:—'I leave to my friend Mr John Home of Kilduff ten dozen of old claret, at his choice; and one single bottle of that liquor called port. I also leave to him six dozen of port, provided that he attests under his hand, signed John *Home*, that he has himself alone finished that bottle at two sittings. By this concession, he will at once terminate the only two differences that ever arose between us concerning temporal matters.'—(*Works of John Home*, vol. i. pp. 164. Edinb. 1822, 3 vols. 8vo.) 'As to the *port-urine*,' says Mr Mackenzie, 'it is well known that Mr Home held it in abhorence.'

not act without it. If you find you can do without him, I shall be glad to receive him home upon fair terms; otherwise I entreat, for your own sake, you will try to disencumber yourself of that intolerable shyness which plagues you, and act with that vigour and resolution which becomes your station, and the near relation you bear to the family. Do this to oblige me as well as yourself; for it would be a new and disagreeable scene to be engaged in any interest against you. Show this letter to the Lady, and I know she will espouse my friend's quarrel heartily. She hates cunning and low arts. 'Tis not impossible I may see her this summer, especially if the Session sit not; and there appears no great prospect of its sitting this summer. Till I hear from you, I shall endeavour to keep my friend in suspense.—Yours devotedly,

'Henry Home.'

The subsequent letter, containing an intimation of Mr Hume's having left Weldehall, is addressed to Sir James:—

'Dear Sir,

'You'll be surpriz'd, perhaps, that I date my letters no longer from Weldehall; this happen'd from an accident, if our inconstancies and uncertainties can be call'd such.

'You may remember in what humour you saw your friend a day or two before you left us. He became gay and good humour'd afterwards, but more moderately than usual. After that, he return'd to his former disposition. These revolutions, we have observ'd, are like the hot and cold fits of an ague; and, like them too, in proportion as the one is gentle, the other is violent. But the misfortune is, that this prejudice continu'd even after he seem'd, in other

respects, entirely recover'd. So that, having try'd all ways to bring him to good humour, by talking with him, absenting myself for some days, &c., I have at last been oblig'd yesterday to leave him. He is determin'd, he says, to live altogether alone; and I fancy, indeed, it must come to that. As far as I can judge, this caprice came from nobody, and no cause, except physical ones. The wonder only is, that it was so long a-coming.

'There was a most villainous trick endeavour'd to be play'd me by my old friend, who, after stating justly and fairly the sum due to me, in order to engage me to go away more easily, immediately afterwards pretended to have chang'd his opinion, and endeavour'd to defraud me of £75. But I got it under his hand (because I told him I wou'd not trust his word for a farthing), to stand to your award and Lady Annandale's. There is no haste in the determination, so I shall write you more fully afterwards.

'I shall always retain a grateful regard and memory of your friendship. I have found in this whole affair that some men are honest and sincere, and others not so. A very slender discovery you'll say; but which, however, may be useful to me, by teaching me not to trust too much to professions and appearances. I am, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'London, Aprile 17, 1746. 'David Hume.'

'If you favor me with any letters, please direct them under cover to Mr Oswald.'

The subjoined letter from Captain Vincent to Sir James Johnstone is further explanatory of the circumstances relative to Mr Hume's dismissal.

'April 19th, 1746.

'Sir,

'There has an alteration happened of late, which, very likely, the person whom it most affects has already acquainted you of. This day was a fortnight, my Lord told Mr Hume to be gone, and that in terms which I shall not repeat; the Monday following, the same directions were renewed in a very peremptory manner, attended with such expressions of resentment, that I advised Hume to go away the next day, which he did, the 8th; and on the 15th I went out thither, and had told my Lord before, that, if he could be reconciled to have him return, I was very willing to contribute towards it, which proposal was not in the least agreed to. I then said it was but right that he should come for a day to take away his things, which was not objected to; but found it was expected he should stay but that one night in the house, from whence he was very unwilling to depart, tho' there must have been the addition of separate table and trouble, which I told him could not be, as my Lord continued determined he should not keep him about him. Hume has not for many months stomach'd depending in any respect upon my decision, who was originally the cause of his being received at all, and had very great difficulty, long since, and at different times, to get my Lord to bear him. He has mistaken the point; for there is nothing irritates his Lordship so much as the thought of any one shewing some tokens of authority, and looking on what he says as caprice, and of no consequence; and I really believe it is some such notion as this, which has produced so thorough an aversion. I gave Mr Hume a draught on the banker for two hundred pounds, payable in fifteen days, and my own promissory note to pay him, on the first of September next, one hundred pounds more, on my Lord's behalf, for his attendance. He is not contented with this, but in-

sists that it is an agreement, he should be paid for the quarter in which he should go away, and seems to lay stress on an expression of mine, that £475 would be an immoderate sum of money for such service and attendance for little more than a year; but when I said so, I mention'd that sum according to his expectations, not that I thought it reasonable he should have more than £400, unless he had gone in another manner, with mutual satisfaction on all sides, and done more for so large an allowance, which I wish had been made less at first; and if he had remained a month or six weeks of a new quarter, under the circumstances mention'd, there might be some consideration thereon, and the additional £75 allowed; but I protest I don't think it justifiable to dispose of my Lord's money in that manner, especially as I had given Hume notice before the first of this month (at which time his full year was to be up), that he was no longer to expect the same terms. He very confidently told me that he was sure of my Lady Annandale's and your agreeing he should have £200 per annum;* and I as roundly affirmed, that I was sure neither would decide so very contrary to my sentiments, as it is certain nothing would alienate the warm inclinations I have to serve my Lord and his family so much as to see this man supported in opposition to me, a point I am persuaded he has labour'd at for several months past; and unless his behaviour had been otherwise with regard to me in particular, I can't allow that there ever ought to have been any thing but compliance and acquiescence of his side, when I was acting for the common good of all; and the difficulty was, there was nobody else to do it. There need be no sort of apprehensions. I never have seen my Lord more reasonable and polite, or more thoroughly satisfied. I

* Namely £200 for the ensuing year, instead of £150 as proposed by Vincent. See pp. 54, 64.

have promised to go and stay two or three days every week with him; and as it is his desire to apply to the violin, a proper person is thought of, who can be of some entertainment to him, and who can't interfere in any other respect; so there will be only to pay him handsomely for his teaching and going out, and in all other respects. Books in his taste, fencing, and walking, will be very sufficient amusement till his health is more confirmed and improved, which not only I, but the physician this very week being out with me, has the strongest hopes of; and it's now agreed to lessen the quantity of medicine, and admit of larger intervals in taking them. My' Lord walked out with me lately two or three miles, received and returned the compliments of the hat of those we met, and without any shyness or reserve, and bear to stand by, and hear me talk with any farmer or countryman. This is a vast change for the better, and the greatest appearance that it will continue; and if any proper person is about him again whilst I am concerned, terms for their behaviour must be specified, and as they wax fat and are encouraged, they must be discreet enough and reasonable in their nature, so as not to kick. Such deportment would engage any good offices of mine, in favour of a worthy man, fit for the purpose, which, I confess, is very hard to find, and possibly my Lord will not care to have any body put upon him by way of terms of continuance. To finish about Mr Hume, whom I desire to be troubled with no more, farther than that I wish what has happened could have been while you were here, I should be glad some time or other, that you, or even any of his best friends, such as Mr Arch. Stewart,* could be left to judge of the whole of his behaviour. I gave him a note, signed by me, that, if Lady Annandale and you consented to his having the £75 extraordinary, I would also consent,

* See p. 17.

as far as I am concerned; but I must premise to you that my Lord is utterly averse to paying it him, for he would force an audience of my Lord, who told him it was mercenary and interested; that his quitting the professorship was a falsehood, as he never could obtain it; and, in short, he received much harsher treatment than on the 5th and the 7th, because he thought, that all that made for his purpose would be right in my Lord, and to be ratify'd; but all that made against, then, by his construction, it was caprice and passion, and not to be minded.'

The following letter, addressed by Mr Vincent to Lady Annandale, is of the same date, and enclosed the communication, written by him to Sir James, of which we have given the above extract, and which he submitted to the consideration of her Ladyship:—

'MADAM,

'I have only to recommend the above letter to your perusal, and please to seal and forward it. I have not said, I think, near so much as I might; but pray, give it some attention. I asked Hume, how he could have the conscience to think of having £75 more, after my Lord's generosity in giving him £100 at Edinburgh, and £300 since, which does not make those impressions of gratitude on him that it ought. If Sir James and you think he ought to have the £75, I would be glad Sir James would tell him that it must be referred to future consideration, when he comes up next winter. I am, on many accounts, glad he is gone. I declare I've had more trouble with his pride and avarice, than in any points concerning my Lord, who continues in the best disposition with regard to your Ladyship.

'I exhort you to be of good cheer, and take care of your health, and believe all will be for the best, which I hope you know is ever the sincere wish of, Madam, your most affectionate humble Servant,

'April 19, 1746. 'PH. VINCENT.'

'Mrs Vincent begs her compliments, and we hope Miss and the young gentlemen are well.'

Relative to these transactions, the only letter written by Mr Hume, about the same period, is the following, addressed to Sir J. Johnstone. It contains some interesting biographical notices.

'Portsmouth, June 6, 1746.

'DEAR SIR,

'I have always sympathiz'd very cordially with you, whenever I met with any of the names, wherein you was interested, in any of the public papers; but I hope that one of the persons is now safe by his escape, and the other protected by her sex and innocence.* We live not now in a time, when public crimes are suppos'd to cancel all private tyes, or when the duties of relation, even tho' executed beyond the usual bounds, will render the persons criminal. I am willing, therefore, to flatter myself, that your anxiety must now be in a great measure over, and that a more happy conclusion of so calamitous an affair, cou'd not be expected, either for private individuals, or for the public. Some little time ago, we had here a conversation with regard to L.——— and other persons in her condition, when

* The baronet's daughter, Margaret, had married the Earl of Airley's eldest son, Lord Ogilvy. Having engaged in the rebellion, he fled to the continent after the battle of Culloden; but his lady was among the prisoners then taken, and in June 1746, was committed to Edinburgh Castle. In the ensuing month of November, she found means to effect her escape; and having joined her husband in France, she died there in 1757, at the age of thirty-three. (Wood's *Peerage of Scotland*, vol. i, p. 35.)

General St. Clair say'd, that he heard from some of the ministers, that the intentions of the menaces, or even of the intended prosecutions (if they went so far), were not to proceed to execution; but only to teach our country-women (many of whom had gone beyond all bounds), that their sex was no absolute protection to them, and that they were equally expos'd to the law with the other sex. However, I doubt not but your friend has no occasion for their clemency, whatever may be the case with the other ladies in the same situation, who had particularly valu'd themselves upon their activity and courage.

'As to the dispute I mention'd, you will easily comprehend it, when I inform you, that I enter'd with your friend on the 1st of Aprile, 1745; that on the 29th of March, 1746, I had a letter from V., offering me £150 pr. ann. for the ensuing year, which I answer'd on the 3d of Aprile, as we had agreed; and that on the 16th of Aprile, I was oblig'd to leave your friend. Now, it was an article of our first agreement, that a quarter begun should be consider'd as altogether finisht, and this article was a part of Mr Young's agreement, and offer'd to Dr Pitcairn; and by these terms, any of us might have voluntarily left him the second day after the commencement of the quarter, even tho' he had desir'd our stay; whereas, I offer'd to stay out the quarter, and neither he nor V. wou'd allow me, but positively threaten'd me with violence.

'The only pretext for refusing the execution of these terms, is, that V. sent me a letter before the conclusion of the last quarter, offering me new terms; and this, he says, dissolv'd the former agreement, and leaves me a claim of £35 only, instead of £75, which I demand upon the former agreement. I desire that this affair may be consider'd with a view to justice or equity.

'With regard to the former, I say, that the first agree-

ment cou'd not be dissolv'd, but by the persons who made it, viz., the consent of your friend, and your and V.'s approbation, all of whom are positively mention'd in the paper he wrote me. Let him look unto the powers he receiv'd; he is only empower'd to pay me £300 a-year during my attendance, not to alter the terms, nor dissolve the agreement. With regard to equity, I was offer'd to have the bargain made secure for 2 years, which wou'd have made my claim £225 more. I us'd not the precaution to draw this into writing; but is it reasonable, upon this account, to refuse me so much more moderate terms? Tho' £475 may seem an exorbitant sum for little more than 14 months, yet £100 was a voluntary present for my journey, which ought not to be consider'd, and my offer of staying 3 months longer, is the same as if I had stay'd; so that I really receive £475 for near 18 months attendance, which is pretty near the sum that your friend has always pay'd in such cases. Can it be suppos'd, that even this sum cou'd be worth engaging any man to leave his course of life, and throwing himself loose of other views and pursuits? I am sure it was not to my advantage, considering my situation at that time. Justice and equity must be here the same; for can it be imagin'd, that I am in a condition to make the M. of A., a present of £75 that of right belongs to me?

'I receiv'd a sudden invitation from General St. Clair, to go with him as secretary to this expedition, a few hours before I was setting out for Edinburgh, where I intended to have convers'd with our friends, Mr Home and Mr Ferguson,* in order to satisfy myself, whether I was partial in thinking my claim so undoubted as I imagine. I was therefore oblig'd to send the papers (viz., the first agreement, and V.'s promise to submit to your verdict, and that of L—y

* James Ferguson of Pitfour, who was raised to the bench in 1764. He married the Honourable Anne Murray, sister to Lady Johnstone.

A——e) to Harry Home, whom I have made, by my letter, entirely master to act on my side as he thinks proper. I was a little suspicious of the frugal turn of my L—y, as well as of the dependance which she must henceforth have upon V.; for which reason, I desir'd him to draw up the case as strong as the reasons will admit. He will alter whatever terms you will think improper in so delicate a situation.

'I believe I told you, that I no way blam'd either V. or his emissaries, with regard to this last caprice. I never thought myself on better terms with your friend; and had a commission to go to London, in order to deliver a certain portrait. I came to him before I set out, and askt him, *S'il n'avoit rien d'autre chose à m'ordonner.* He immediately flew into a passion, say'd I was mocking him, as if he treated me like a servant, and gave me orders or commands, wou'd admit of no explanation, and thenceforth wou'd neither eat, speak, nor converse with me. I never thought him capable of so steady a caprice; and as he is resolv'd to live alone, and his director is resolv'd to have no controul, I do not see how it is possible to be otherwise. I was told by V. (what I am afraid is the case) that he (I mean your friend) is at present master of his current revenues, and that no man need account to any but himself for the disposal of them. However, as long as he remains in Britain, his friends will always have some resource.

'I doubt not but you will be glad to hear, that I have not chang'd my situation for the worse. The office is genteel: I have 10 sh. a-day, besides perquisites, which may be considerable; and can be put to little expense, because I live with the General. The invitation I receiv'd, was as unexpected as that which your friend gave me.

'I was sorry to leave London without having an oppor-

tunity of seeing your son, and of testifying to him (as I shall to all the world) my sincere regard and gratitude to you. I am, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'David Hume.'

P.S.

'The first fair wind carries us away, so that I cannot propose to have the pleasure of hearing from you.'

The following passage of a letter from Vincent to Sir James Johnstone, dated at Weldehall, on the 5th of July, 1746, refers to the same subject:—

'I had two letters from Portsmouth from Mr H., which I did not think necessary to answer, and should be much pleased that I had never had any sort of correspondence or knowledge of him, which I reckon one of the misfortunes of my life. He has merit and useful talents; but to weigh the thing strictly, it is not fitting that I should put myself on the footing of having a disputable reference on account of a man, who makes a greedy demand after so much generosity shown him, and who gave up nor lost not any thing by his attendance, but greatly gained by it in many respects; both which points can be well proved. And if he, or his best friends, or any one alive, can say that, in honour and conscience, he is entitled to £75 more than the £400 he has already had, I am then more mistaken than I ever was in my whole life. I should wish for an occasion to have his behaviour examined, and see whether it is to be justified; and I say it is a strict truth that I would be free from passion and prejudice in setting it forth. But there's enough about him, and perhaps too much.'

On the subject of his claim for an additional quarter's salary, Mr Hume had requested the friendly interference and influence of Mr Henry Home, whose admirable letter to Sir James Johnstone is equally candid and conclusive.

'Edinburgh, 9th June, 1746.

'Sir,

'I am sorry to find, by a letter from my friend, David Home, that he has left the Marquess of Annandale, upon a hint, as he tells me, that there is no longer occasion for his attendance. I am concerned upon his account, and partly that I doubt of the Marquess's finding a more faithful or more affectionate servant.

'He acquaints me, that there is a dispute about a quarter's sallary, which is submitted to my Lady Marchioness of Annandale and to you, begging that I would write my thoughts to you upon this subject. I cannot decline this task, because it is the request of a friend, and for that reason, you'll pardon me for giving you some trouble.

'Of the agreement betwixt the Marquess of Annandale and Mr Home, one article is, that the sallary shall be due for that quarter in which Mr Home leaves his service, in the same way as if he had served out the quarter. This clause is very equitable, and was well designed. A servant, who is dropt betwixt terms, is not suppos'd to find ready employment; and therefore, unless the separation be by his fault, he should not be a loser by it, but his sallary carried on for some moderate space of time, such as may be thought sufficient to get into new employment; and here a quarter is condescended on, the shortest time commonly allowed in such cases.

'Mr Home entered to his service, 1st Aprile, 1745, and continued with the Marquess till the 16th Aprile, 1746. By the tenor of the agreement, he's entitled to a year and a

quarter's sallary; but it is objected against him, that, on the 29th of March, 1746, Captain Vincent offered him but £150 for another year's attendance; and, therefore, that his claim for the quarter in dispute is but in proposition to that offer, viz.. £37 10sh.

'Touching this circumstance, Mr Home acknowledges the offer was made him, and says, he gave his answer on the 3d Aprile, that whatever Lord and Lady Annandale decided, he would willingly submit to; but that, instead of concluding the new agreement, he was dismist altogether, upon 16th Aprile.

The question then is, whether he is entitled to £75 for the broken quarter, or only to £37 10sh. The thing is a mere trifle to the Marquess of Annandale, but of some importance to a young gentleman* who has not a large stock; and supposing the claim to be doubtful, I have great confidence in your generosity, that for a trifle you would not chuse to leave a grudge in the young gentleman's mind, of a hardship done him.

'But to deal with you after that plain manner which I know you love, I will speak out my mind to you, that, in strict justice, and in the direct words of the agreement, Mr Home is entitled to £75. I have enclosed a copy of it, and the principal is in my hands, ready at your call. Captain Vincent's words are, "I engage that my Lord should pay you £300 sterling a year, so long as you continue to live with him, beginning from the 1st of Aprile, 1745, and that you should have your sallary for that quarter in which you should leave him, as if the quarter were fully expired." I subsume directly upon this clause that Mr H. continued to live with the Marquess for one entire year, and sixteen days of another, and therefore is entitled to £300, and a quarter of that sum.

* Mr Hume was, at this time, in the thirty-sixth year of his age.

'Touching the offer of a smaller sallary, nothing, in my apprehension, can be built upon it, because it was a proposal only, which was not brought to a bearing. Mr Home continued to live with the Marquess after the proposal was made, in the same manner as before; and as the proposal was not accepted of, there was no innovation or change upon the original covenant, which subsisted in its full strength and effect till the 16th of Aprile, 1746, when a final close was put to it by Mr Home's dismission.

'It is admitted that Mr Home has a claim for the broken quarter. If so, it must be upon the footing of the original covenant, because no other bargain was struck between the Marquess and him. It cannot be upon the footing of a proposal or offer, which never came the length of a covenant, and which, therefore, never had any effect.

'It will do me a singular pleasure that you will communicate these things to the Marchioness of Annandale, and what further will better be suggested by yourself. Whatever shall be your opinion will be received with due deference and respect, as becomes your obedient Servant,

'HENRY HOME.

'Remember that, while Mr Home was with the Marquess, the professorship was lost.'

The question respecting the payment of the disputed sum of £75, the quarter's salary referred to in the preceding letters, was not speedily settled. Nor did Mr Hume ever consent to relinquish his claim; on the contrary, about the end of the year 1760, upwards of fourteen years after he had

left Weldehall, and at a time when he had attained to great literary distinction,* and had realized a very ample competence,† he renewed his demand, and in truth instituted an action in the Court of Session, to recover the sum in question.

The following interesting letter from Sir James Johnstone, is in answer to a communication addressed to that gentleman by Mr Hume, whose letter has not been preserved :—

'Weldehall, 29th December, 1760.

'Dear Sir,

'I could not make you any answer last week to yours of the 17th, as I had but just time to read your letter as the post passed here in his return from Langholm on the 22d.

'You'll readily believe it would give me great pleasure to be in any way serviceable to you, in establishing the facts necessary to be proven in the process between you and Lord Annandale, as it might save you further trouble and expense, and give satisfaction to Lord Hopetoun, who, in every other case, has been pleased to place such confidence in my integrity, as to require no other testimony but my own; and had the queries you now put to me, related to transactions that had passed 40 or 50 years ago, I believe I could have answered them with precision at once; but I have

* His philosophical writings had all been published, and he had risen to importance several years prior to this date. The last two volumes of his History of England appeared in 1761.

† On finishing his engagement with General St. Clair in 1747, about a year after he had left Weldehall, he says, in his autobiography, 'My appointments, with my frugality, had made me reach a fortune, which I called independent, though most of my friends were inclined to smile when I said so; in short, I was now master of £1000.' And so rapidly did he, by means of the strictest economy, accumulate money, that in 1769, he characterizes himself as 'very opulent; for,' says he, 'I possessed a revenue of £1000 a-year.

found from experience, in several late instances, that, with respect to transactions that have passed within these 15 or 20 years, I require to have circumstances brought into my mind by others, in order to recollect with distinctness, the true state of these transactions; and therefore, before answering your queries, I must put you to the trouble of answering some to me. 1. Upon what grounds you suppose that Captain Vincent had powers from the M. of A. for transacting business for him in the year 1745. 2. Upon what grounds you suppose that these powers, or a copy of them, may be lodged in my hands, and of which you desire an attested transcript. 3. If you have a copy of the letter you say you wrote me upon leaving the Marquis in April 1746, claiming the sum now in question. 4. If you received an answer from me to that letter. If, in course, you will answer these questions, and send me copies of the letters you say you wrote to me after leaving the Marquis, and of my answer to you, it is not improbable but the same may bring distinctly into my remembrance the fact wanted to be established. The loss of one eye, and the delicate situation of the other, make all searches for papers a very great trouble to me; but if, by your answer, you afford me any ground to suspect that I am possessed of powers, granted by the Marquis to Captain Vincent, for transacting business for him, or copies of such powers, I will immediately commence a search. Or, if you have no copy of the letter you say you wrote to me after leaving the Marquis, and that it is necessary such letter be produced, I will likewise commence a search for that; tho', if you are possessed of my answer to you, I should imagine the production of that letter would supersede the necessity of searching for yours.

'What I can recollect at present in this matter stands thus:—That early in the year 1745, my Lord Annandale being

charmed with some things contained in your Essays, wrote Ronald Crawfurd,* proposing your attending him as a companion, and I think the appointment to be allowed you on that account; and that in consequence of this letter, you immediately repaired to London, and was there before I returned to Scotland, April or May 1745; that you was with the Marquis at Weldehall, in March 1746, when I came to visit his Lordship there on my return to Scotland; and that I had a letter from you in summer 1746, mentioning your having left the Marquis, and making a demand for something still due you; in which letter, or some subsequent letter or writing, the point of law was stated to equity of your claim; but what were the circumstances of your claim, or the precise sum demanded, has now entirely escaped my remembrance.

'By what you now write, it would seem as if the original bargain you made with Ronald Crawfurd has been innovated by a subsequent transaction with Captain Vincent, and that it is for this reason you now inquire if I am possessed of any deed empowering Captain V.† to transact business for the Marquis. If the Marquis ever granted powers to Captain V., and I was present at the executing the deed, I certainly would take care to have a copy of it; but my memory does not, at this time, serve me of having been present at the executing of such deed by the Marquis, and yet I apprehend he must have had from the Marquis

* An eminent Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, the Law-agent of the Earl of Hopetoun, and receiver of the rents on the Annandale estates. He died in 1762.

† That Mr Vincent had a commission from the Marquis of Annandale, in regard to his English property, is obvious from the following letter, dated 15th May, 1746, and addressed by Sir James Johnstone to one of the sub-agents on his Yorkshire estates:—'I have yours, dated the 23d ultimo, and have only time at present to beg you would make out a copy of the instructions I left with you, and that you'll forward the same to Philip Vincent, Esq., at his house in Berkeley's Buildings, near Piccadilly, who I told you had a joint commission with me from Lord Annandale, to oversee the management of his English affairs; and you will also send him a copy of the scheme of your accounts from Ladyday, 1743.'

powers for uplifting money, as I have some dark remembrance of being told, that he had uplifted several sums belonging to the Marquis in Middleton and Co.'s hands, and that in autumn 1746, either in his coming to Comlongan, or in his return from it, he had called at Hackness, and uplifted a considerable sum from the receiver of the Yorkshire estate; and I further remember, and have heard after his death, that there were accounts for considerable sums that stood open between him and the Marquis, but in whose side the balance lay, I do not recollect; but no doubt, these accounts have been since settled in chancery by Mr Montague, the master, to whom the court referred all things relating to Lord Annandale's affairs; and if Capt. V. had general powers from the Marquis for acting in his English affairs, that may yet be learned, by making the proper inquiries at London. At present, my own opinion is, that any little offices he did about the Marquis from the time Mr Grano left him, were rather the result of his friendship for him, and in consequence of general recommendation given him by his cousin, Lady Annandale, than in virtue of any general powers given to him by the Marquis himself. This is all that I can recollect at present in this matter; but you may be assured, that, however frightful all searches amongst musty papers are now to me, yet I will with pleasure immediately enter upon one, if you are of opinion, by my so doing, I can contribute towards establishing the truth of the facts alledged on your part; a piece of justice which every man is entitled to demand of me, and though it were otherwise, you have a right to challenge, from your old friend, and, Dear Sir, your most obedient and obliged humble Servant,

'JAMES JOHNSTONE.'

To this letter Mr Hume returned the subsequent reply:—

'DEAR SIR,

'I was very sensibly touch'd with your letter, both on account of the friendly disposition which appears in it; and of the infirm state of your health, particularly with regard to your eyes, which, I remember, were always weak, yet so as that you could amuse yourself with reading and other occupations. I am very desirous to spare you such a disagreeable task, as looking for old papers; and therefore shall briefly recapitulate to you all my transactions with the Marquess of Annandale, which are as fresh in my memory, as if they past yesterday. ' '

'In January 1745, I receiv'd a letter from the Marquess, inviting me to come to London in order to live with him; and was told, at the same time, by Ronald Crawfurd, that my Lord propos'd to grant me the same terms, which had been given to Mr Peter Young, viz., three hundred a year. I immediately went to London, where my Lord told me the same thing; and it was confirm'd to me by you and Mr Vincent. I took lodgings near him, and saw him every day, till we went out together to Weldehall, on the first of Aprile. While we stay'd at London, sometime either in the month of February or March (but I think in the latter), my Lord gave Captain Vincent powers to act for him. The powers were drawn in concert with you; and you, as well as I, was present at the reading and signing of them. The article which regards myself, I remember perfectly. After giving him powers to hire and discharge servants, and order his family, he proceeded in these or terms to the same purpose (and I also empower the said Philip Vincent to fulfill my agreement with David Hume, and pay him 300 pounds a year). You explain'd to me afterwards the meaning of these terms in a very obliging manner; that my Lady Annandale, and you, and all the friends of the family, as well as Captain Vincent, had a confidence in my integrity; that

tho' Mr Vincent, in the first scrawl of these powers, had drawn them in such terms as to give him authority over me, as well as over the rest of the people about the Marquess, yet you had prevail'd with him to alter them; and that, therefore, I was to look upon myself as entrusted by the family, and answerable to them, as well as to Mr Vincent, for my conduct.

'When I was in the country that summer, it occur'd to Mr Vincent, as well as to me, that I had nothing under any body's hand, expressing the terms of our agreement. He accordingly wrote me a letter to that purpose, engrossing a copy of the terms with Mr Young, and adding, that, by virtue of his powers, and with the Marquess's consent and yours, he granted me the same terms. One article of Mr Young's agreement was, that, if he left the Marquess any time after the commencement of a quarter, he shou'd be pay'd the whole quarterly appointments in the same manner as if the quarter was finish'd. This condition was repeated and granted to me; and it seems a reasonable condition, that I either shou'd have some warning beforehand, or an equivalent for it.

'I enter'd with the Marquess on the first of Aprile 1745, and left him on the 16th of Aprile 1746, from a sudden caprice, which left it not in my power to stay any longer. Mr Vincent, who told me several times, that that quarter was due to me, and that he wou'd pay it me, at last, on parting, took a scruple, that he might be answerable for the money, if he pay'd it where no service was perform'd; but he promis'd me, if my Lady Annandale and you agreed to it, and thought it reasonable, he wou'd pay it afterwards. I immediately wrote to you; and desir'd you both to consider the matter yourself, and lay it before my Lady Marchioness. My Lady and you thought it the best course to lay the matter before Mr James Graham, my

Lord's lawyer; because, as you told me afterwards, tho' you thought my claim just, yet the sanction of his opinion wou'd best secure you and every body from blame. His opinion, as you told me, was also favourable to my claim; but, before he had time to reduce it to writing, he dy'd suddenly.

'I went abroad soon after with General St Clair; and for that reason receiv'd no answer from you to my letter, at least I remember none, and have not any at present. I staid abroad some years. On my return home, I open'd a law-suit, by Lord Kaims's directions, against the estate of Annandale. I was stopt by Lord Hopton's desire, who said, that, as soon as he took on him the management of that estate, he wou'd do me justice. The affair lay over till that time, when I repeated my claim; and my Lord seems entirely inclin'd to satisfy me. He only desires the sentence of a Lord Ordinary to secure him against any after-claims from the executory; and in order to that, I must produce some kind of proof of facts, which my Lord, and his agent Mr Crawfurd, both know to be true, but which cannot regularly be taken upon my bare assertion. Of this nature is the fact, that Captain Vincent had some powers, or at least that he took upon him to do business for the Marquess: which is the reason that I apply'd to you.

'Now, there is nothing, Dear Sir, to which I have a greater reluctance than to give you trouble. But, if your papers be arrang'd in order, according to their dates, the Marquess's powers were granted either in February or March 1745; or, at farthest, on some of the first days of Aprile; and my letter to you (which likewise wou'd be material), was certainly dated in the end of Aprile 1746. But if it be difficult for you to find these papers, your recollection of some of the material facts here recapitulated, might probably serve the same purpose; as my Lord's lawyers will not be anxious to chicane my proofs, which cannot be expected to be very re-

gular, after so long an interval. I am particularly desirous you wou'd recollect this fact (which seems now to have escap'd you), that Captain Vincent did business for the Marquess; because, in that case, his letter, expressing the terms of the agreement, will have authority; and I have that letter by me. If you find my letter to you, please to write on the bottom of it, that it is the same letter which I wrote you at that time.

'I was extremely sensible of your obliging behaviour to me thro' the whole course of these transactions, and retain a very grateful acknowledgement of it. It is but a bad return to give you so much trouble. But you see the necessity of the case. I still am desirous of saving you the trouble of searching into a heap of papers, which are, perhaps, in confusion, as you never expected that it would become requisite to produce any of them; and, therefore, shall be contented with your ascertaining from your memory as many of the facts as you can recollect, after I have thus run them over to you. Only, as it is uncertain, whether the Lord Ordinary may not think the producing these powers requisite, I know it wou'd give you uneasiness, if a neglect of this kind shou'd happen to lose me the money, which otherwise he wou'd think due to me. I beg my compliments to Lady Johnstone, and remain, with great sincerity, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'David Hume.'

'Edinburgh, Jack's Land,
'1*st Jan.*, 1761.

'P. S.

'I beg of you to receive my compliments of the season.'

Relative to Mr Hume's connexion with the Marquis of Annandale, the last letter that has been preserved, is the following, which is addressed to Sir James:—

'Dear Sir,

'I met with Ronald Crawfurd yesterday, who told me, that he had seen Lord Hopton's referee, who told him, that the sole difficulty in my affair was with regard to Captain Vincent's powers, and that, if these, or a copy of them cou'd be produc'd, there was no question with regard to my claim. This is the reason why I again give you this trouble; and as I am certain there were such powers, and that you must have a copy of them, I must apply to you, if possible, to send them to me, attested by you, as the real copy which you then took. I need make you no apology, as you have seen my reluctance to give you trouble, where the necessity of the case does not require it. Ronald Crawfurd tells me, that he once saw these powers, but he does not remember exactly the purport of them. I am, Dear Sir, your most obedient humble Servant,

'David Hume.'

'Edinburgh, Jack's Land,
'*5th Jan.*, 1761.'

Sir James's answer to these letters is not known to exist; but we are led to infer that it was corroborative of the alleged fact of Captain Vincent having been formally invested with legal powers to transact business for the Marquis of Annandale in England. The case must have been settled extra-judicially, or by reference; for, after a careful search in

the Minute Book of the Court of Session, we do not find that it was ever enrolled. Mr Hume's claim, it is obvious, was not resisted because it was considered as unjust, but because the agents for the Annandale estates did not regard themselves safe in making any payments, except in circumstances in which the debt was established by legal evidence.

FINIS.

EDINBURGH: MURRAY AND GIBB, PRINTERS, 21 GEORGE STREET.

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Digitized with financial assistance from the
Government of Maharashtra
on 15 March, 2016